Diaries from the 1850 voyage of the *Haidee*

A collection of passenger accounts of their voyage from Hull, England to Port Natal (Durban) on the good ship, *Haidee* in 1850.

Gavin D Peckham, March 2026

A painting of the good ship, Haidee

Queen's Dock, Port of Hull, mid 1800s – busy and rather congested.

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Please contact me about any suggestions errors, omissions, typos or other faux pas.

An emigrant ship leaving port.

Preface

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I have gathered much information about the *Haidee* settlers and the village of York that they established in Natal in 1850. This is the village where my ancestors settled, lived, loved and died. I once had a delusional fantasy that I would publish the definitive, "History of the Village of York". Sadly, that is not to be. There are huge gaps in the information I was able to gather and I am no longer able to access the relevant archives in order to fill these gaps. Hopefully, some future PhD student of History will take up where I have left off. Meanwhile, I am going to try to preserve some of the information currently available to me by posting a series of York related articles to the Internet Archive.

In the following document, I have put together virtually all the material I could gather about the diaries kept by three of the emigrants on their 1850 voyage on the *Haidee* from Hull to Port Natal.

The first part of this document presents, inter alia, the three diaries in a slightly edited, easy-to-read form, with explanatory footnotes. These may be accessed via the **green links** in the list of contents.

For the benefit of the more curious, the Appendix includes a side-by-side and date-by-date account of the Lofthouse and Plummer diaries so that the accounts of the two ladies may be more easily compared. It also includes copies of the original, handwritten accounts by Martha Lofthouse and William Boast. I have been unable to trace any copy of the original, handwritten version of Jane Plummer's diary.

The Appendix also includes typed transcripts of the original documents. These transcripts have tried, as far as possible to record the original writing "as is", complete with errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar. Because of this, the transcripts may be tricky to understand in parts. For example, the writers tend to use commas, both as commas **and** as full stops. Also, after using a comma in lieu of a full stop, they seldom start, what is apparently a new sentence, with a capital letter. Thus, many sentences seem to run on into one another.

Add that to the fact that the diaries also include some very lengthy sentences punctuated by commas that are clearly **not** intended as full stops. Martha Lofthouse, in particular, also has the habit of using "has" instead of "as".

Nevertheless, if you use your imagination and insert commas, full stops and capital letters in suitable places, then the whole thing reads much better.

E.g. "**Sunday 14th** morning us as most on board where seasick."

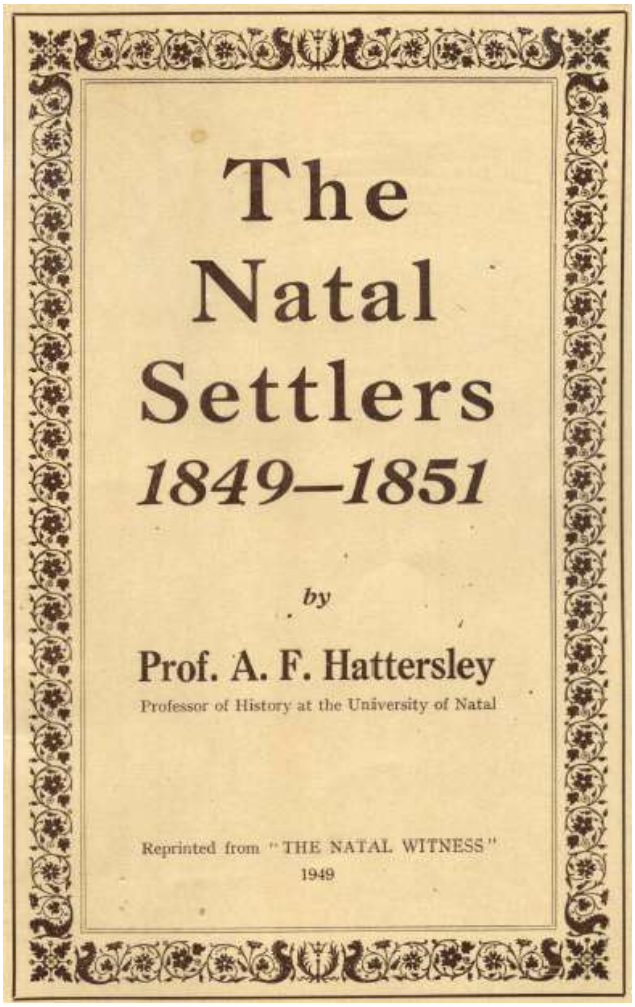
Should be read as: "**Sunday 14th.** Morning. Us, as most on board, were seasick."

Suggestion to interested readers: If you join the "1850 York Settlers" Facebook group, you will find a treasure trove of additional information in the "Files" section of that site.

All images are from Google Images unless otherwise indicated. Back to Contents

Introduction

In his booklet, "*The Natal Settlers, 1849–1851"* published in Pietermaritzburg in 1949, Prof. A. F. Hattersley gives an excellent account of the background that led to Henry Boast's 1850 emigration scheme from the North and East Ridings[1] of Yorkshire, to Natal, South Africa.



In brief, the 1840s was generally a bad time economically in England, but especially for farmers. As a result, many people emigrated, hoping for greener pastures elsewhere. One of these emigration schemes, organised in 1850 by Henry Boast, was a cooperative scheme for a party of mainly Yorkshire Wesleyans to emigrate to Natal, South Africa.

The Boast scheme should not be confused with the better known Byrne emigration scheme to the Richmond area of Natal, which occurred at much the same time and which is also well described in Hattersley's booklet.

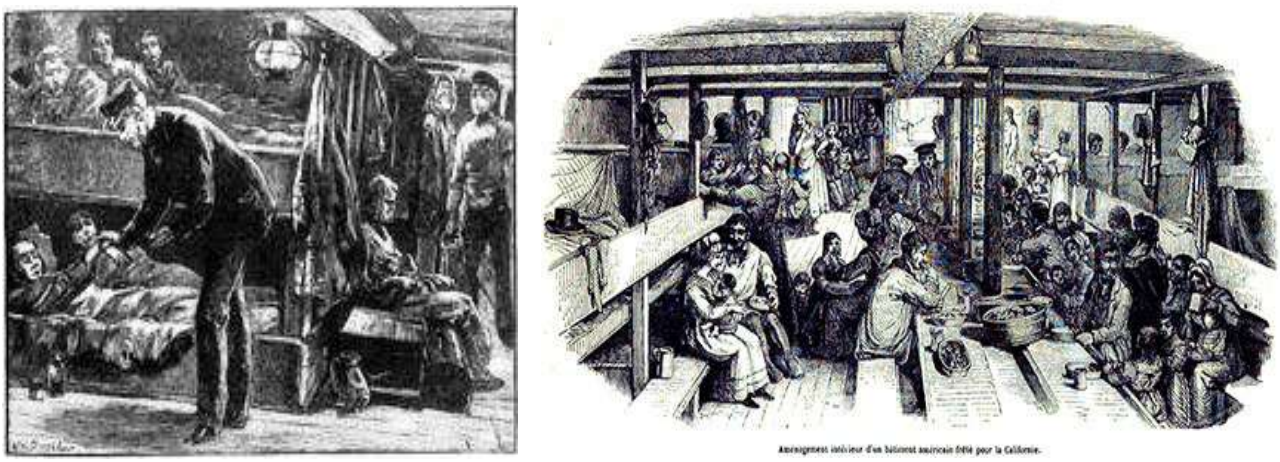
Henry Boast's party of about 240 souls was beset with problems from the outset. The ship initially contracted for the voyage, the *Pallas*, was, apart from other problems, too small and inadequately equipped for so many passengers. While this matter was being resolved, Henry Boast died and his wife, Mary, stepped up to the plate and took over. Eventually the *Haidee*, a three-masted ship of about 750 tons, was contracted and the emigrant party finally sailed from Hull[2] on 10 July 1850, some three months after their planned date of departure.

Mary Boast

The party arrived off Port Natal, now Durban, on 7 October 1850, after a trip lasting almost three months. Accommodation on board was cramped with limited ventilation, and with a routine governed by weather and by the discipline and health of the passengers and crew.

[1] In Yorkshire, a "riding" refers to one of the three historic administrative subdivisions, the North, East and West, derived from the Old Norse word *thrithjungr*, meaning "a third". Established by Vikings in the 9th century, these large, distinct areas functioned as county-level divisions until 1974.

[2] The city's official name since the 12th century has been Kingston-upon-Hull, but it is always simply called Hull.



Conditions aboard an 1850s emigrant sailing vessel.

The ship's progress depended upon the prevailing winds and was affected both by calms and storms. Interesting details and much trivia was recorded in the diaries of several passengers. Transcripts of three of these diaries appear below – these being the diaries of Martha Lofthouse, Jane Plummer and William Boast.

A typical barque.

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The Authors

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The three diaries transcribed in this document are those of:

- **Martha Lofthouse**, nee Moore (LWRC-GZ9),[3] known as Patty, who was accompanied on the voyage by her husband, Benjamin Lofthouse (KCQC-ZX2).
- **Jane Plummer** (GST8-YTY) who, with her siblings, George and Ann, were all *Haidee* passengers, as was Benjamin Lund (GR4N-2L3) whom Jane married about a year after their arrival in Natal.
- **William Boast** (MG58-821), was one of several Boast family members aboard the *Haidee* and was accompanied by his wife Hannah, nee Lofthouse (K2K7-WV2) who was the older sister of the Benjamin Lofthouse mentioned above.

In his account of the voyage, William Boast mentions that another *Haidee* passenger, his brother-in-law, George Potter (GM6C-1QN), was keeping a diary.

> *I would have written more about our passage, but M^r^ Potter has been keeping a journal of every day's proceeds since we left the Humber, which he is going to send to M^rs^ Mason of Nafferton, so that if you apply to my brothers at Alton they will gladly lend it to you to peruse, so that you will get to know every particular. Both me and my wife feel anxious for you to read it.*

I have been unable to find any further information about George Potter's account.

Thanks to Pat Smith, a complete list of the *Haidee* passengers is available online at:

https://www.sa-passenger-list.za.net/passengers_1845/haidee.php

[3] These are the personal IDs allocated on the FamilySearch web site.

The Components of a Typical Barque

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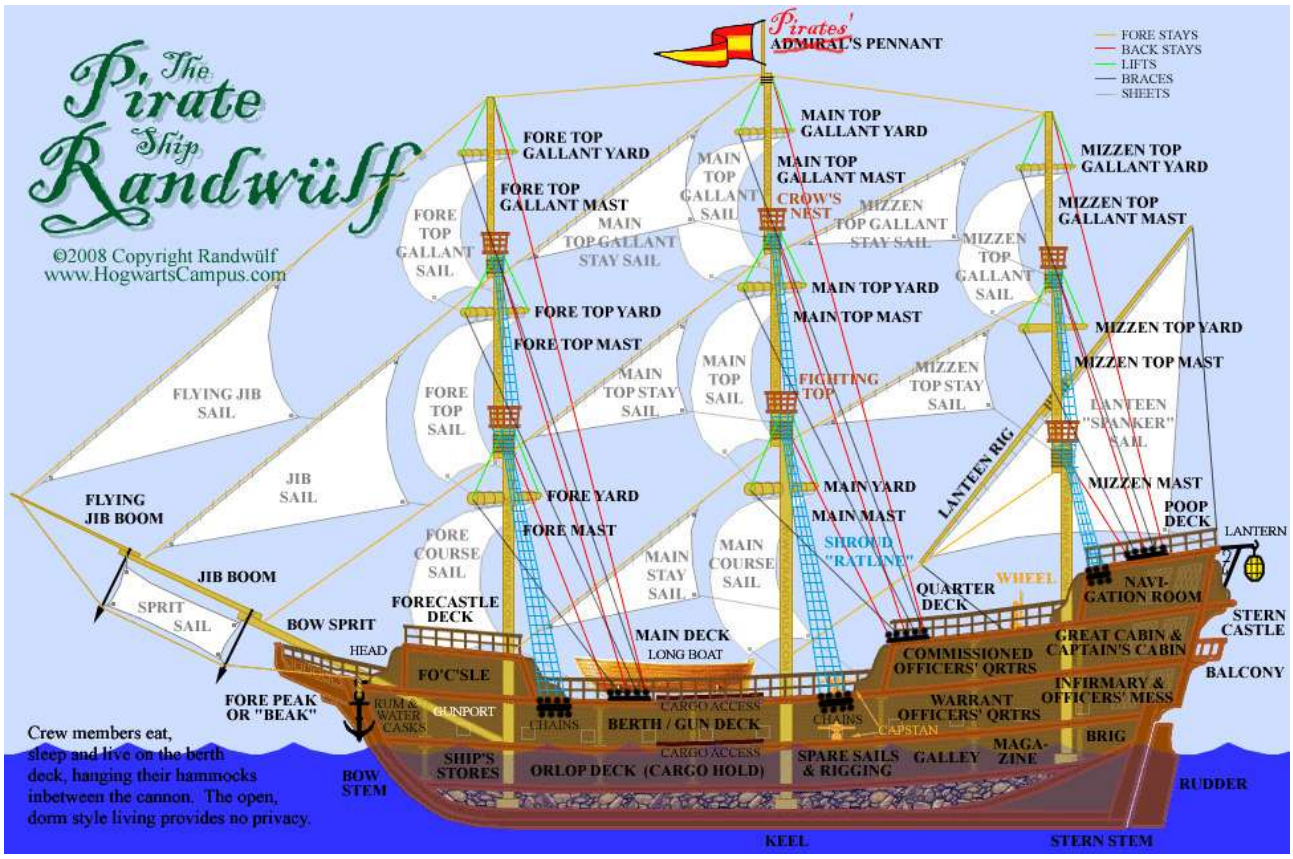
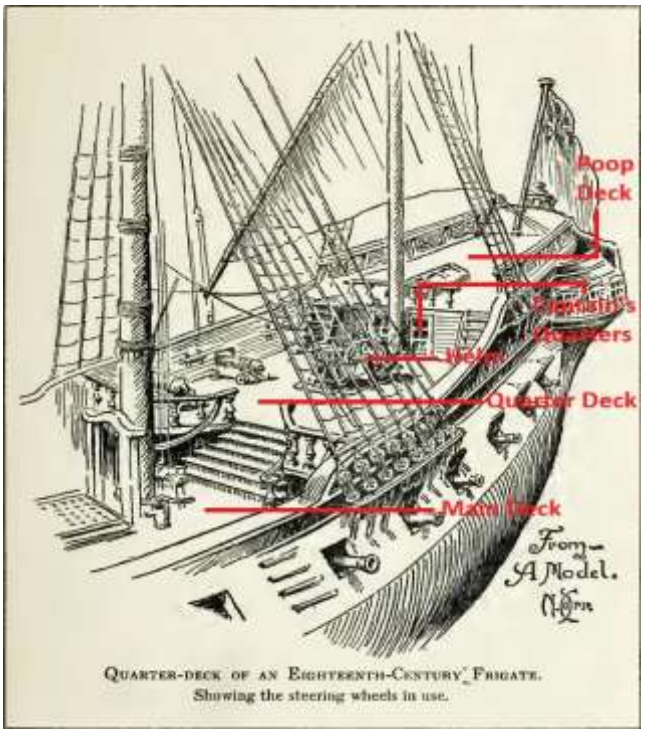
These diagrams may help to understand the assorted components of an 1850s barque, many of which are mentioned in the diaries transcribed below.



Above: Whilst this Google image is labelled as a "pirate" ship, it is very similar to a typical barque except that the gun deck would have been replaced by cabins for passenger use, or by cargo holds if the ship was intended for use as a merchant vessel.

Right: This sketch shows relationship between the various decks. I mention this because they are referred to in the diaries. The main deck runs the full length of the ship. The quarter deck, towards the aft of the ship, is raised above the level of the main deck. The helm is located here and the captain's quarters occupy the rear portion of the quarterdeck. The poop deck is the highest and aftmost deck on the ship. It generally forms the roof of the captain's quarters. On some barques, this basic layout was modified in various ways.



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Origins of the Lofthouse Transcripts

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From an article in *Natalia*[1] we learn that one of Martha Lofthouse's descendants, her great grandson, Neil Lofthouse,[2] was in possession of a small collection of Lofthouse documents including Martha's diary and some letters. Copies of these letters and the diary were sent by Mr Lofthouse to Mr and Mrs W. Thomson of Charleen, Roberts Road, Pietermaritzburg. He, in turn, made copies available to Shelagh and Brian Spencer of Pietermaritzburg.

Brian Spencer sent me a copy of his handwritten transcript of Patty's diary in November 2004. This is included in the Appendix. There are places where Brian was unable to decipher the original handwriting. He also said that there may be minor errors where he may have deciphered the odd word or two incorrectly.

In February 2026, Stuart Heslop sent me a PDF file of photocopies of the original diary which he had obtained from his father. Stuart has no idea how his father obtained those old photocopies.

On the following page is my transcript of Brian's version. I have edited this to some extent in order to improve its readability.

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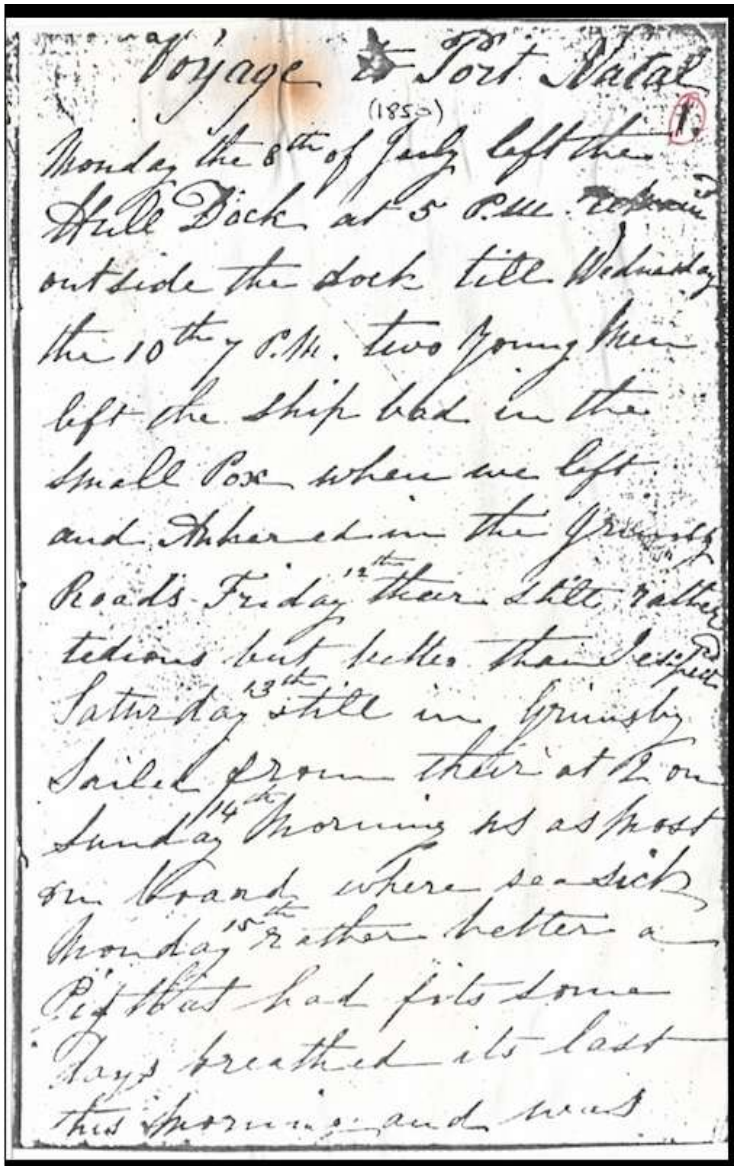

Voyage ★ Port Natal

(1850)

Monday the 8th of July left the Hull Dock at 5 P.M. remain outside the dock till Wednesday the 10th P.M. two young men left the ship bad in the small Pox when we left and Moored in the Friendly Roads Friday 12th there till Saturday 13th still in Grimsby Sailed from there at 2 on Sunday 14th Morning as most on Board where sea sick Monday 15th Rather better a Pig that had fits some Days breathed its last this morning and was

This is the first page of Patty Lofthouse's Diary.

[1] *Natalia*, Vol 11, 1981, pp 7-15.

[2] Neil Lofthouse moved to the UK in the later part of the 1900s and his whereabouts, along with those of the Lofthouse Collection, are currently unknown to me.

The Diary of Martha (Patty) Lofthouse

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An edited transcript by Gavin D Peckham, February 2026.

In this edited draft some of the spelling has been corrected but some "quaint" spellings have been left as is. Punctuation has been added to improve readability but much of the grammar has been left unchanged in order to try and retain the essence of the original text. I have inserted some explanatory comments in square brackets. A row of dots indicates words that could not be deciphered. A copy of Brian Spencer's original, handwritten transcript and copies of the first nine pages of the original diary, are included in the Appendix.

Voyage to Port Natal

1850

[Page 1]

Monday, July 8. Left the Hull Dock at 5 p.m. and anchored outside the dock until Wednesday the 10th, 7 p.m. [*when*] two young men left the ship bad in the small pox. After [that] we left [*Hull*] and anchored in the Grimsby Roads.[3]

Friday, July 12. There still [*in Grimsby Roads*]. Rather tedious but better than I expected.

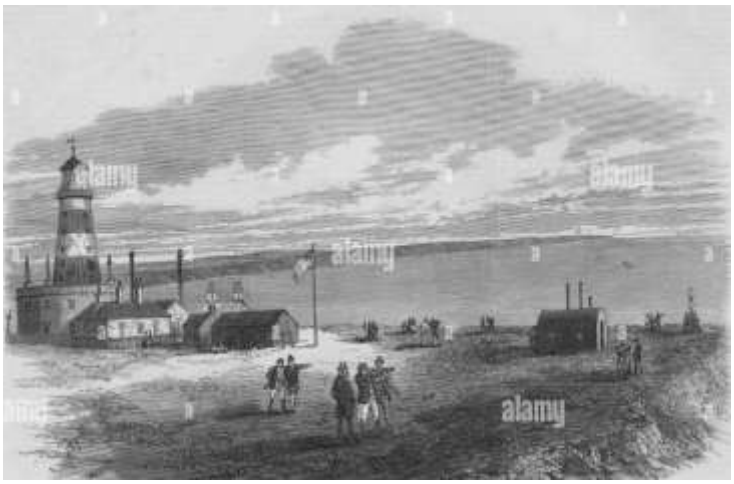
Saturday, July 13. Still in Grimsby. Sailed from there at 2 a.m.

Sunday, July 14. Morning. Us, as most on board, were seasick.

Ships (on the right) at anchor in Grimsby Roads on the Humber estuary, just south of Hull.

Monday, July 15. Rather better. A pig that had fits some days, breathed its last this morning and was **[Pg 2]** buried in the deep. The pilot left us at 10 p.m. off Dover.

Tuesday, July 16. When off Dungeness lighthouse a passenger thought he should like a bath, so jumped overboard with his clothes on. After that, another thought he should like to have his clothes off, but he had a narrow escape. The tide took him out and they had to lower a boat to fetch him back ½ an hour after. When we were at breakfast, a child died, belonging to Mr & Mrs Braithwaite and was buried at 4 p.m. **[Pg 3]** Mr Ashton was the and old Mr Smith, the clerk.



Dungeness Lighthouse is situated about 30 km SW of Dover.

[3] Roads, short for roadstead, was the name used for a sheltered body of water close to the shore where ships can safely drop anchor and wait. Grimsby Roads is in the Humber estuary on the seaward side of Hull.

A funeral at sea is a most imposing scene. Made very little way since we got into the British Channel.

Wednesday, July 17. A calm sea and made very little progress. Afternoon a tremendous thunderstorm. Awfully grand, I have no doubt. But the rain was so heavy that we not see it [*because*] we were cornered down with tarpaulins. We got on deck about 10 p.m. and the lightning was beautiful. **[Pg 4]** ~~after we had retired to rest a storm arose and we lost the Main top gallant yards and had a ruff sea all the next day~~. [*This was crossed out and rewritten.*]

Thursday, July 18. A.m. Windy. 12 p.m. the wind got very high and at 6 p.m. had a narrow escape of running into a brig[4] at night. Lost the main topgallant yard[5] and were nearly all seasick.

Friday, July 19. Ruff [*rather quaint!*] sea and the wind against us. Made very little way and at 6 p.m. came in sight of the Isle of White [*Wight*]. .....barque in view and tacked close before us. A beautiful sight to see a ship in full sails by **[Pg 5]** moonlight.

Saturday, July 20. A beautiful morning, light breeze, first favourable [conditions] since leaving the Downs,[6] about 4 miles per hour. The French barque 2 miles astern. No land in view about noon. Made Torbay [*Torquay*] at 10 p.m. abreast Start Point with lighthouse. A barque, *Jenny Jones*, of Swansea crost our bows but we left him far astern before night. Got the new top gallant yard up by about noon.

Start Point is about 40 km east southeast of Plymouth

Sunday, July 21. A calm clear morning. Not a breeze to stir the sails nor ripple the surface of the sea. The ship going back fast with the tide land and a good many vessels **[Pg 6]** in sight. Had church service at 10½ after which Mr ..... addressed a few words. Read the evening service in afternoon by Mr Ashton and Mr Bell had preaching in the evening. Saw Eddystone at 2 p.m. View of Plymouth and ..... the vessel pitched very much ..... night. A dreadful sick night for many of the passengers. / Lizzard point lights

Eddystone lighthouse is in the middle of the English Channel about 20 km SSW of Plymouth.

[4] A brig is a two-masted sailing vessel with both masts fully square-rigged, known for speed and handling.

[5] The mainmast comprises three sections: the lower mast, topmast and topgallant mast. A spar is a general term for any pole used to support a sail. A yard is a specific type of spar. It is connected horizontally, at its centre to a mast and serves to support a square sail. The halves on either side of the mast are called yardarms. Hence "being hanged from the yardarm". Thus, the term "main topgallant yard" refers to the yard connected to the uppermost section of the mainmast. See the top yard on the mainmast in the photo on page 3.

[6] The Downs is a roadstead or anchorage off the town of Deal, about 10 km north northwest of Dover.

The Lizzard lights [*Lizard Point*] in sight.

Monday, July 22. Past a terrible night. The ..... and pitching [*me*] nearly out of bed all night. No ..... and a continual rain. All sick. No eating or cooking.

Tuesday, July 23. Past a dreadful stormy night. Lights all out and a regular **[Pg 7]** tempest. Everything flying about in all

Right: Lizard Point is the southern most point of the UK. It is located in Cornwall, about 90 km south west of Plymouth.

directions. Indeed, a large piece of fat pork came, dish and all, into the berth of one of the passengers. The floor covered with ..... and all kinds of articals belonging to everybody. Children crying and people throwing up all round. Enough to frighten the few that were not seasick to death. In the midst of the storm Mrs Potter[7] brought forth a son. Mr [*William*] and Mrs Boast [*Mrs Potter's brother and sister-in-law*] and Mr P [*George Potter*] ..... all that was in the birth sick. No one else could be had. The sailmaker had to lend a hand [*presumably with the birth*]. The child died in the morning. A little more favourable in the evening. Saw lots of porpoises a splendid night. Sickness gradually **[Pg 8]** abating. Mrs Potter's child committed to the deep. Being in a box, it floated and was seen some time. Myself in bed all day.

Wednesday, July 24. A rainy morning but fine the rest of the day going very well. Mrs Walker[8] gave birth to a son. The provisions very good for them that can eat, but the water shocking past drinking. Raw and wasted in tea, best in coffee.

Thursday, July 25. Nothing particular but sick in bed.

Friday, July 26. Wet morning but turned out a fine day. Still in the Bay of Biscay. At break [*fast*?] abreast of Cape Finnisterre at 4 p.m.

Cape Finisterre is the western most point of Spain.

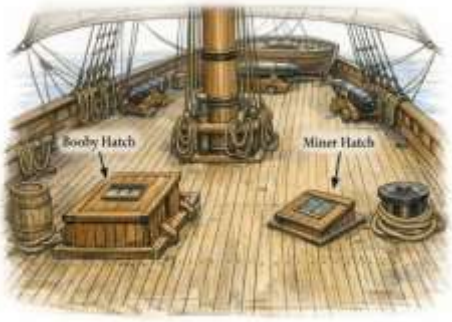
[7] Marianne Potter, nee Boast (GM6C-BKB) was the wife of George Potter and the younger sister of William Boast.

[8] John Walker, his wife Esther and their daughters, Betsey and Ann were all *Haidee* passengers. Their son died about three weeks later.

Abreast of Oporto [Portugal]. A fine afternoon. **[Pg 9]** Lots of porpoises to be seen in the evening. They leaped completely out of the water and fell again into the sea with a splash.

Saturday, July 27. Fine morning. Wind light and ship rolling. Going pretty well. A fine day and all improving in health.

Sunday, July 28. A beautiful morning ship still rolling. Rold [*rolled*] all night. Tumbled people's things about in all directions. Sent the cook's boilers to the side of the ship. The morning prayers read by Messrs Ashton & Bell. The sun very warm. The "Flag that Braved a thousand years, the battle and the breeze"[9] was stretched over the head of the preacher and along the deck and kept the sun off a many of the passengers assembled at divine service. **[Pg10]** The pulpit was the miner[10] hatch with the booby[11] hatch for a reading desk and the ship rolled about very bad in the afternoon. Evening service, and betwixt times, services of all sorts all day. The sun very hot. A many of the birds called Stormy Petrels, or by the sailors, Mother Carey's Chickens, were to be seen flying in our wake.



Storm petrel with its distinctive white rump.

Monday, July 29. Fine morning. During the night Mrs Botterill[12] added a boy to our number. Days short. Dark by 7 p.m. The phosphorescent light very beautiful a night. It floats in the sea like balls of fire. The mate says that they are very large masses of clear **[Pg 11]** jelly. This afternoon the petition taken down in the main hold. All our end all grumbling about it.

Tuesday, July 30. A fine morning. Came in sight of Madeira at 6 p.m. Got within 25 miles. A most dreadful dark night, the air very warm, but pleasant in the evening. The passengers in

The Portuguese owned island of Madeira is in the Atlantic Ocean about 500 km off the coast of Morocco.

[9] This refers to the Union Jack flag, which was suspended horizontally to provide shade for the congregation. The phrase in quotation marks was a colloquial name for the Union Jack at the time. The phrase, a very popular one at the time, comes from a poem "Ye Mariners of England" by Thomas Campbell, written in 1801. (ChatGPT)

[10] A miner hatch (*or minor hatch*) was smaller than a booby hatch and used primarily for ventilation and light.

[11] A booby hatch was a small hatchway on deck with a raised wooden frame and a lid. It provided ventilation and access for moving cargo or people.

[12] Elizabeth Botterill, nee Horsley (MJND-BJ4) was the wife of Thomas Botterill. They named their son William Cape Vincent Botterill (P9Q8-PDH). Cape Vincent is a misnomer resulting from the fact that one of the Cape Verde islands is called St Vincent. Cape Verde is about 600 km off the coast of Senegal, the westernmost country on the bulge of Africa.

small groups all over the deck. Some sat, some standing and others laid all over the quarter deck.[13] Very interesting sight. So many human beings, so variously employed, and all apparently happy and the features of none to be distinguished **[Pg 12]** unless you look closely. To ..... from the fore end is heard the ..... and songs of the sailors & the young men. In another part a few lovers of music were humming together some favourite & difficult pieces of sacred music. From another part was heard the merry laughter and giggles of the young girls, and from all parts, the hum of numerous bands in deep conversation. Above all the washing of the sea against the vessel's sides. The generality of the people keeps on till 9½ past or 10 o'clock and being dark so soon, we have very long evenings. **[Pg 13]**

Wednesday, July 31. Sun very hot. All the passengers, excepting 3, are now quite better of seasickness – that is Mrs Claybourne,[14] Mrs Coulson[15] and myself. I have been very bad nearly all the time has [*as*] yet. We have now got into the trade-winds. A brig in sight. A beautiful night. The planets very brilliant and all the stars bright. The Great Bear and the Polar star of ..... descending. Mother Carey's chickens have now left us. It is..... them. Some flying fish & dolphins also a **[Pg 14]** whale have been seen by the sailors. Water very bad. Cannot drink it raw. Like rotten eggs. What a blessing would a drink of pure spring water be.

Thursday, Aug 1. Fine morning. A large ship about 4 miles ahead. Another on the horizon. The captain brought the two ships close together and found her to be the *Columbine* of Hull, the vessel that laid alongside of us in the docks. A few flying fish. Seen another vessel that proved, when **[Pg 15]** we over took her, to be the *Thomas Oarty*, a barque of about 400 tons from Liverpool. Got lime juice for the first time. Very much required for the water is very bad. The young ladies' petition taken down between them and us this afternoon. Abreast the Canary[16] Islands at a distance about 100 miles.

Location of Madeira and the Canary Islands.

Friday, Aug 2. A fine morning and sailing nicely. The fast vessels nowhere seen but another in sight ahead.

Saturday, Aug 3. Spoke [*to*] the ship. It was the *Investigator* [*bound*] from London to China.

[Pg 16]

Sunday, Aug 4. A very fine morning. No passengers [*boat*?] the sailor that had kindly offered his services ..... up for. Some of the passengers do nothing but grumble without any ..... in as pretty [*pickle*?] without a cook. One of Rylands[17] shipping tricks, in sending the ship

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[13] The quarterdeck is a raised area of a ship's upper deck near the stern of the vessel which is usually reserved for the captain and officers.

[14] Elizabeth Clayborn, nee Atkinson (MJVH-431), the wife of Charles Claybourn.

[15] Frances Mary Elizabeth Coulson, nee Harding (K48Q-RQ6), the wife of Brian Coulson who, with their seven children, the youngest being 6 years old, were all passengers on the *Haidee*.

[16] The Canary Islands are named after the Latin phrase *Canariae Insulae*, meaning "Island of the Dogs," and not after the canary bird.

[17] Joseph Rylands was the managing director of the Hull Flax and Cotton Mills and personally owned a small fleet of ships. It was he from whom Henry Boast had contracted, first the *Pallas*, and then the *Haidee*. He was, apparently, a difficult and hard-nosed businessman.

without one. Had church service and others has ..... The captain and second mate came on board in a boat from the ship *Investigator*. We were **[Pg 17]** all nearly becalmed so it was quite a novelty to have ..... visitors at sea. The captain stayed [*for*] dinner with our captain and returned to his own vessel in the evening. The first shark seen today. I am now much better of my sea sickness, but dreadfully thin and week. It was Ben's [*Benjamin, her husband*] watch tonight so he had a tub that has been preparing for the purpose, filled with sea water to bath in. He enjoyed it very much. **[Pg 18]** I quite envy him his good wash before coming to bed.

Monday, Aug 5. A splendid hot morning. All the male youngsters bathing in a tub. Most of them enjoyed it much. Our man Welburn very ill. Something approaching the cholera. Flying fish seen. Many people very poorly. Thought to be from the lime juice and warm weather. Welburn very bad tonight. I asked the captain[18] if he would have the tubs filled for us to bath and he, with his usual kindness, **[Pg 19]** had it done and I had the first plunge. But being a large tub, Mrs Bentley of Hull joined me and after we had retired for the night 6 more of the females had a good wash. I enjoyed it much.

Flying fish.

Tuesday, Aug 6. A cloudy morning. Very cool and pleasant. We have passed every vessel we have seen since leaving Hull. A pig killed this morning 6½ **[Pg 20]** stones ..... A great many flying fish and bottlenose [*dolphins*] seen today and a shark. This evening, just when we were going to tea, Enoch Welburn died. On the whole very suddenly and, as the Dr knew that the cause of death was, or would have been, one of the worst kind of fevers, orders were given to the captain to make a shell for him directly. The poor man was put into it just has [*as*] he had died, and a greater part of the bedding thrown **[Pg 21]** was thrown overboard and the funeral took place about ½ 7, Messrs Ashton and Bell reading the service. It was awfully solemn. A dark still night, the stars shining, but not brightly. Two lanterns abreast the coffin[19] (which was upon a grating, laid on a balance, upon a rail amidships), cast a flickering and uncertain light upon the numerous faces thronged around. The whole length of starboard side was crowded by people. All **[Pg 22]** laughing and the usual gaiety of the passengers was done away with, for

Bottlenose dolphin.

A burial at sea.

[18] From the Plummer diary for Oct 10, the Master of the *Haidee* was probably Captain Hopkinson. "Master" was the correct term on a passenger vessel, Captain being a naval rank. However, the Master was often addressed as "Captain" as a sign of respect.

[19] At that time, dead bodies on sailing ships were commonly disposed of by sewing the body into a sailcloth shroud, suitably weighted at the feet, and then placing it onto a plank, or a grating which was balanced on the edge of the ship so that the body could be easily tipped into the ocean.

the suddenness of the stroke, was to many, overwhelming. For a many had not heard of his illness. When the minister read, "We commit his body to the deep" and the deep heavy plunge of the coffin falling from a height of 10 or 12 feet into the wide Atlantic, grated upon our ears, it seemed to send a thrill of horror through the minds of all. When we were all on deck the place below was well fumigated with chloride of lime[20] and hot vinegar. Mrs Hessllope [*Hesslewood*] confined of a son.[21] **[Pg 23]**

Wednesday, Aug 7. A cool pleasant morning but myself very poorly. A many porpoises near the ship. Saw a ship ahead. A dreadful hot day, the sun above us, no shadow. Spoke the ship found her to be the *Worcester* barque, [*en route from*] Hull to Cape Good Hope and Bombay.

Thursday, Aug 8. A fine morning. The *Worcester* quite out of sight. Saw two more ships ahead. Very ill. Sighted one of the Cape birds.[22]

Friday, Aug 9. I past a most dreadful hot night **[Pg 24]** nearly melted in bed and dreadfully weak into the bargain. Never so thin and weak in my life. Had a squall, a dreadful heavy shower of rain that completely put down the wind and the sails flapped against the mast, and from going 8½ knots we went 1½. Found the ship to be from Grennock[23] to Calcutta. Out 26 days. [*26 days since leaving port*.]

Saturday, Aug 10. Fine morning but a heavy squall which brought on a most tremendous torrent of rain. Never saw anything like. After the rain, heat intolerable. **[Pg 25]** A man ill of the small pox in the afternoon. A long and heavy shower of rain. A great deal of water caught. A little cooler after. Captain threw a bottle over board this afternoon.[24]

Sunday, Aug 11. A cloudy ..... November morning. Going pretty well. Orders to get letters ready in case we meet a homeward vessel. Church service at about 10. Sighted a homeward bound ship but could not speak to her.

Monday, Aug 12. Passed a miserable night. The rain began about 10 and poured in torrents until morning. **[Pg 26]** It rains a little now and the wind comes in squalls. The rain comes in to our bed, as well as a many more [*many others*]. Most of the night so we were up catching it and drinking all night. I have heard them talk of rain falling in pails full, but it is the case in the tropics and the lightening is splendid. Wind high, ship rolling, the fore top sail yard[25] broken at the strings.[26] The poor sailors nearly blown away with getting it down. Mr Walker's[27] child buried this evening. A shark seen before the funeral. **[Pg 27]**

A shark as seen from a ship.

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[20] The modern name for "chloride of lime" is calcium hypochlorite. Its chemical formula is: $Ca(OCl)_2$

[21] John Daddy and Hannah Daddy, nee Harding (9KHY-N5C), sailed with their two young sons. John died in Natal in 1858 and his widow then married George Hesslewood (9KHY-NPV), a bachelor who had sailed with the Daddys on the *Haidee*. I can find no record, other than this, of Hannah giving birth to a son while on board. And, why Patty records her name as Hessllope, presumably meaning Hesslewood, I have no idea.

[22] Presumably a Cape Petrel, which known as a Cape Pigeon to sailors of that time.
for following ships for days and which was very common especially off the west coast of Southern Africa.

[23] Probably Greenock on the west coast of Scotland, not far from Glasgow.

[24] Presumably this was a "message in a bottle" set adrift, to come ashore who knows where.

[25] This is the top yard on foremast – see previous relevant footnote.

[26] Strings refers to yard-strings — lashings on the yardarms (the outer ends of the yard).

[27] John Walker, his wife Esther and their daughters, Betsey and Ann were all *Haidee* passengers.

Tuesday, August 13. A *tremendous*? Night. Everything rolling about the place in all directions. Some had treacle, some sugar, some meat, some ..... peas – in fact all sorts of things into bed with them and other places. Everyone in a state of confusion. In bed ill all day. A great many transparent pink fish seen, called Portuguese Men of War. A many bottle noses seen and a many flying fish. Carpenter busy with the new yard. Very sick of the winds called the "Variables". Dark now by 6 p.m. Plenty of fleas and bugs and a many **[Pg 28]** get .... that have not had them for years.

A Portuguese Man o' War.

Wednesday, Aug 14. Fine morning, sea much calmer. Two sails in sight 1 behind and one ahead. The weather much better but myself still very bad.

Thursday, Aug 15. Passed two vessels.

Friday, Aug 16. English morning, just like one of those miserable mornings in November in England. Cold, rainy, stormy & squally. A ship in sight passing him very fast. Mrs Wright[28] confined Saturday of a daughter. Mrs William Boast confined and child[29] died. A son .... **[Pg 29]**

Saturday, Aug 17. Fine morning. Still in the "Variables". Nothing to see but a stray flying fish now and then.

Sunday, Aug 18. A fine clear morning. Wind unfavourable. Church service and other prayers & sermons as usual.

Monday, Aug 19. A fine morning and nothing particular but I am still very poorly.

Tuesday, Aug 20. A fine morning. A calm sea breeze. It is impossible to describe or anyone to imagine the beautiful **[Pg 30]** sunsets and the immediate approach of darkness in the tropics. It is splendid indeed.

Wednesday, Aug 21. A fine morning. Much cooler than I ever expected. Have cast [= *removed*] no clothing yet but my flannel waistcoat, and always did that in England. No fish caught yet. A good many birds today about the [*size*?] of a larger hawk, called by the sailors a Boat....[30] A cask of beef all bad and was thrown overboard.

Red-billed Tropicbird.

Thursday, Aug 22. A beautiful calm morning. The ship we saw yesterday, a long way behind. **[Pg 31]** Myself very bad in bed all day. Mrs Britton[31] died at 4 pm. Just as the Capt said we crost the line.[32] I never was so low spirited. I was ill in bed and could see them with her till she died, and then I saw them sew her up.[33] A box was made and she was put in it by ½ past 5 and buried at 7. A calm still evening. Mr Britton is left with one child 15 months old not yet weaned. A very bad

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[28] John Wright's wife, Grace, nee Thornton (GP3X-BFL) gave birth to a daughter. No further information available.
[29] William and Hannah Boast's unnamed son (9QB5-2QQ) was still born on the *Haidee*.
[30] Almost certainly "Boatswain", pronounced "bosun". This is the name commonly given by sailors in the Atlantic, to the Red-billed Tropicbird, whose long tail streamers were thought to resemble a boatswain's marlinspike.
[31] Carolina Brittain, first wife of James Brittain (MG17-CFW). Their son was James Digby Brittain (MSDN-12K). James senior subsequently married Mary Alice Royston (MRTM-4TQ).
[32] The equator.
[33] In those days, people who died aboard ship, were usually sewn up in sailcloth before burial at sea.

job for him poor man and it quite put a stop to all the fun that was preparing in consequence of crossing the line.

[Pg 32]
Friday, Aug 23. A fine clear morning but a very hot day. Ben's watch *[her husband]*. A good many people getting out their boxes and finding a many things wet and spoiled. Myself too ill, but if [*I was*] well, should have no wish to be showing all my clothes on the poop[34] like some, Mrs Coulson for one, and the only one that has an unnecessary exhibition, and people wish to know if she is going to call a sale. Had to go to bed before the fun of the line's crossing came on, but had not been up **[Pg 33]** for days before, so could not stay out late, but we had the best part below, for there was a little more water than was agreeable to all going about the decks and the sailor's Neptune[35] and his crew came and paid us a visit between decks. Brought their fiddles, forks & hooks,[36] drest in a most laughable manner & danced very well, some of the most popular dances. I think they were at it most of the night in one place or another. **[Pg 34]** One or two of the young ladies and some of the gents where dancing on the poop, so the sea faring crew joined them and they had a good bit of sport.

Traditional "Crossing the Line" festivities.

Saturday, Aug 24. A calm clear morning. The quarter boats[37] were lowered for a race manned by some of the young men for a wager of ½ doz[38] of sherry. The winning boat crew Cowham, Bottrill, Allison, Pritchard, Young, Brown, [the] Steersman; the other crew Bell, Brambles, Brough, Laburn, STman [steersman] Ashtons[39]. **[Pg 35]**

Sunday, Aug 25. A fine morning. Strong breeze. Saw some whales. Church service as usual. Was taken very poorly and had to go to bed before the preaching. A most splendid night but could not get up to enjoy it. Everyone talking about the sunset and moon rising. For all I was ill, I enjoyed my dinner today for, having got some new potatoes, we had a ham & bacon pie. If I had been well I should almost have ..... myself. It is the first dinner I have had to call a dinner.

Monday, Aug 26. **[Pg 36]** A fine morning. Great numbers of flying fish. They leap out of the water by hundreds. A dolphin seen. A very rough night but moon & stars bright.

Tuesday, Aug 27. A rough morning. Myself very poorly. Nothing particular today.

Wednesday, Aug 28. A fine morning but squally. A vessel seen homeward bound. No dinner today for after breakfast the boilers began to leak. They were obliged to put the fire out and

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[34] A poop deck is the highest, aft-most deck on a sailing vessel, forming the roof of the captain's cabin. From the French word *poupe* or Latin *puppis* for stern. It was used by officers for navigation and observation.
[35] Presumably this was a sailor dressed up as Neptune, the Roman god of the sea as a part of the equator-crossing festivities.
[36] In this context, "hooks" were small grappling hooks, or gaff hooks used to secure ropes or rigging.
[37] In nautical terms, the quarters are the areas on either side of the stern of the vessel. So "quarter boats" were simply boats stowed at the stern quarters. These small service boats (often gigs, cutters, or whaleboats), were used for carrying officers ashore, communication between ships or for emergency use as lifeboats. (ChatGPT)
[38] In the 1850s, a "½ doz of sherry" as a wager, likely meant 6 servings / glasses, rather than full bottles — enough for a small celebratory toast or drinking challenge. (ChatGPT)
[39] Most of these men must have been crew members because very few of the names are on the passenger list.

the gents in our mess got some of the sailor's peas soup, and after they got the fire lit again, we had some grewel [*gruel*] made.

[Pg 37]
Thursday, Aug 29. A very fine clear morning, day and brilliant night.

Friday, Aug 30. A fine morning but wild in appearance. Little Tom Kirk[40] very poorly. Myself better but very weak. Undertook to put him a mustard plaster on but not very well qualified to compete with a strong 7 year old lad but got on pretty middling [*averagely well*] considering.

Saturday, Aug 31. A fine morning. Strong wind and heavy seas. Rather poorly. With the pitching motion of the ship, cannot get better. **[Pg 38]**

Sunday, Sep 1. A cold wet stormy morning. Sudden squall. A ship behind rather gaining on us. A regular squally day. The morning service gone through but no other. A fine evening, the most beautiful sun set. Came on cold and stormy again after.

Monday, Sep 2. A squally morning but the sea not so rough. The night particularly fine.

Tuesday, Sep 3. A fine clear morning after late bad weather. A party went out in a boat and pulled round the ship.

Wednesday, Sep 4. **[Pg 39]** A very fine morning crost the tropic of Capricorn. Had a boat race again this afternoon. A pretty good race the starboard side beating considerably. I think it is the lucky side.

Thursday, Sep 5. A fine warm morning. Ship scarcely moving.

Figs-on-a-String

Friday, Sep 6. A calm morning with air pleasant. Another boat race. Quite a fashionable amusement. The same side won again. A woman lost a yard & ¼ of fruit[41] & a sovereign. In the afternoon a search was made through **[Pg 40]** the ship in all the beds and boxes inside. A man of the name Braithwaite refused to have his done so the Capt came down and the man said all ..... to him, but at last he was forst [*forced*] to comply after a great deal of nonsense, but the missing articles where nowhere to be found and a many greatly dispute that they were ever lost, for she is such a bad character. The Capt was the most patient man with them I ever saw, but he is one of the nicest men I ever so for his place. I am very much **[Pg 41]** surprised at the coppaning [*companioning*] on board, for Mr Boast professed to be so particular about the choice of character and reputation of the passengers and they are a choice collection indeed some of them.

Saturday, Sep 7. A fine morning. A whale seen this morning & a wandering albatross during the day.

Sunday, Sep 8. A fine morning. A brig in sight before us and has [*as*] we got up with him found it to be the one that past us last Sunday. Church service as usual. Another vessel seen behind us. Wind very strong. Hardly possible to walk on the decks. **[Pg 42]**

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[40] Tom was the infant son of Joseph (GGTF-LGD) and Ann Kirk, nee Williamson. It would seem that Tom was their first born. They subsequently had four more children.

[41] In the 1850s Britain, fruit sold "by the yard" was most commonly dried figs. These were threaded onto string and sold in lengths, a yard at a time, and called "fig strings" or "fig sticks." They were a cheap, portable, long lasting and popular street-market food. (ChatGPT)

Monday, Sep 9. Spoke the ship behind by signals. She proved to be one from London to Calcutta one of Green's,[42] 1450 tons. She ..... more free than we did. Very rough, impossible to go on deck. Cannot keep our feet below [*decks*]. The spray and waves coming over the decks and half drowning some of the men on deck, and poured down the hatches amongst us below, and almost swam us out.

Tuesday, Sep 10. A rough morning. Impossible for the men to get along the deck without hold, and women cannot go at all. In our wake they say are flying Albatrosses, Cape ..... & pigeons, the latter very pretty. Flying fish left us long ago. No fish of any description **[Pg 43]** seen lately. A storm with rain and sea washing over the decks and down the hatches. Ben's morning watch and the ship pitching things about in all directions. Some had sugar, treacle, tea, coffee, raisins, peas, rice, oatmeal, meat and various other articals into people's beds. The wet had come into some of the beds and there was one man laid in with his bed on the flour [*floor*?] and a paistboard [*pasteboard*] came down on him. Ben was sat on the seat. The ship gave a roll and shot him off on the wet floor. It was impossible for anyone to sit without hold so, after that he sat in the **[Pg 44]** bed .....

Wednesday, Sep 11. A pleasant morning but sea high. Ship rolling very much. I find myself much better below. Think sea air does not agree with me. Rough & squally.

Thursday, Sep 12. The ship rolled about very much all night but a fine healthy morning. Some of the passengers trying to catch pigeons or albatrosses with a line but the ship going too fast.

Friday, Sep 13. A fine but cold morning. An English Jany [*January*?] morning. A clear frost during the night. **[Pg 45]** A great contrast from a week or two ago. Squall very..... about here but shout [?] very cold.

Saturday, Sep 13. [*14* !] A cold, raw , squally morning. Ship rolling very much. Birds increase in numbers. Sea continually coming over the sides on the decks when they altered one of the sails this evening. The wind and sea where high at the time and the ship gave such a most tremendous roll that everyone and everything out of it place in a minute. I had just got into bed but had not quite got undressed. It nearly sent me over. Sent a preserved mutton pie of Mrs Boast's under our **[Pg 46]** seat. A can with some water, a slop pail with a little in it, Mrs H. B's[43] baby's chair with a ..... in it and the pie, were all mixed up with Mrs Coulson's clothes that had not been properly secured. We, in our mess, have had has [*as*] few accidents as anyone, the fewest upsets and the fewest breakages. A many of the messes are from want of care.

Storm at Sea

Sunday, Sep 14. [*15* !] A fine cold morning. The day came on very squally and continued so during the day we had a shower of hail I stayed below all day. They began service **[Pg 47]** in the morning but it was broken up by a squall. Could not have the service below on account of invalids. A many whale birds[44] this last few days.

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[42] Green's Blackwall Line, was one of the better-known British merchant lines of the mid-19th century.
[43] Hannah Boast.
[44] This is a general term applied by sailors of the time to several species of gulls.

Monday, Sep 16. A fine morning. A squall last night with thunder & lightning but fine today. Warm in the sun.

Tuesday, Sep 17. A fine morning warm during the day. A many birds round us again. Had a sad rolling night. A good many of the young men shooting for a wager at a bottle. People begin to talk hard about landing and are packing, but I am certainly very comfortable on the subject **[Pg 48]** myself.

Wednesday, Sep 18. A dull day. Sea quite gone down. A ship in sight. Another shooting match at target. This evening a breeze.

Thursday, Sep 19. The Cape between 120 & 130 miles distant.

Friday, Sep 20. A fine morning. The Capt wishes to make land at Algoa Bay .... coast of Natal.

Saturday, Sep 21. A splendid morning. The sea began to get up and we had some of the heaviest rolls yet experienced. The sea came over and wet near all on deck. They say we are 520 miles from Port Natal. **[Pg 49]**

Sunday, Sep 22. A wild morning. Mrs Clayburn getting better but Mrs Coulson & Mrs Harper[45] very ill. The cold again very severe. They say there is land to be seen ahead. It is Algoa Bay[46] but I have not gone up, for some that have been, can see nothing. At night a regular storm. The jib[47] sheer blown to ribbons. The Capt gave orders to stand [*off*] from land directly. There is nothing like plenty of sea room in a storm. No one seemed to care anything about it, but felt quite secure with a good ship under us. I **[Pg 50]** have not heard of any one being at all afraid, but a nervous woman or two, and there must be of that sort, to be of all sorts. [*i.e. "It takes all kinds to make a world."*]

Monday, Sep 23. [*Little*?] cooking on. I got up at 6 and had a very hard bout to get some cakes made. The ship knocking about so, but at last succeeded. Ben took them to the cook house but it was most dreadfully storming. Got them baked and then the storm came on most furious. Nearly all of us women got into the bed places and sat, for it shot us of the seat into the flour [*floor*] and that was none so clean for the water came down the hatches and **[Pg 51]** mixed with the dirt and made a mud of it. The gents cooked all and washed all up and did all the work for it rained and was very wet.

Tuesday, Sep 24. The sea much gone down. Everyone telling us, when they come to bed, about the splendour of the moon rising.

Wednesday, Sep 25. A fine morning. Little wind. Yesterday afternoon some of them caught a Cape Pigeon,[48] tied a paper round its neck with the name of the ship on it and let it fly. Noon no wind.

Thursday, Sep 26. A fine morning. A large ship past for **[Pg 52]** the Cape. About 75 miles further off than we were yesterday at noon. Very tired of being so near and cannot get there.

A Cape Petrel

[45] Mary Harper (36 y), nee Keld (MG11-RCX), wife of William Harper (54 y) who travelled with their two sons, Michael (24 y) and William (23 y).

[46] The city of Port Elizabeth (now Gqeberha) is located in Algoa Bay. It was established in 1820 and is about 700 km south west of their destination at Port Natal (Durban).

[47] A triangular sail attached to the bowsprit at one end and the foremast at the other.

[48] This is the term commonly used in the 1850s for the Cape Petrel (*Daption capense*) which was well known for following ships for days and which was very common especially off the west coast of Southern Africa. Also known to sailors of the time as a Cape Hen or a Sea Raven.

Friday, Sep 27. A very fine morning but quite calm. The sun quite hot and the day like one in the tropics. A boat went out with a shooting party. Shot a small albatross, some whale birds and Cape Pigeons. At night the wind got up in a wrong direction.

Saturday, Sep 28. A fine morning but making little **[Pg 53]** progress. We are yet 345 miles from Natal. Our watch tonight. Nothing to write about. Mrs Harper & Mrs Welburn very poorly.

Sunday, Sep 29. A dull cloudy morning. Again going out to sea. Went to church and stayed the sermon. Invalids no better.

Monday, Sep 30. A fine, clear morning but comes on very damp and uncomfortable early on in the evening and causes a great deal of illness, a kind of diorhea [*diarrhoea*]. A many very poorly.

Tuesday, Oct 1. A thick misty morning. 12 weeks today **[Pg 54]** since I came on board the ship and have not been off since. It is as [*though*?] as long has [*as*] I said I should be satisfied to stay but I had still [*to*] make myself content. Some of the passengers caught a Cape Hen or Sea Raven[49] with a fish hook and behaved in a most shameful manner to it.

Wednesday, Oct 2. A fine day and making a little better way. Very poorly all day.

Thursday, Oct 3. A fine morning. Going nicely. Everyone **[Pg 55]** expecting to see land in the day. Very poorly myself, wish I was landed. Caught a Cape Hen this afternoon. Very tame. Would eat anything.

Friday, Oct 4. Dull morning and no land yet. A great deal of talk about Natal. Hoping soon to see some sight of it.

Saturday, Oct 5. A fine morning. Land said to be near and us all making slight preparations in the shape of packing articals. Going to bed in hope **[Pg 56]** of seeing land in the morning.

Sunday, Oct 6. A fine morning. Heard there was land to see. Got up. Had a good wash all over on the strength of leaving all the dirt I could behind and ..... and came out to see land. A beautiful prospect but not the wright place and had to round the ship and put out to sea again. Church service as usual. A white squall[50] at night and the most splendid lightning I ever saw. Near the coast all night and came in sight **[Pg 57]** of land on the .....

Monday, Oct 7. A ..... . Up at 6 to see Natal. A very romantic seeing. Went along the coast till ½ past 10 am then cast anchor. The custom house officers came on board. About an hour after, a letter from Mr Lund to say we could not take more than a ??s of gun powder and that the *Minerva*[51] that left Plymouth .....

[End of transcript.]

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[49] Along with Cape Pigeon, Cape Hen and Sea Raven were sailor's names for the Cape Petrel.

[50] A "white squall" meant a sudden, violent gust of wind at sea with little or no visible warning - and little or no dark cloud accompanying it.

[51] The *Minerva* was wrecked off Port Natal (Durban) on the night of 4 July 1850. The vessel was driven onto the rocks near the Bluff during a sudden gale. Most passengers and crew were rescued, although all belongings were lost as the ship broke up.bv

Origins of the Plummer Transcripts

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As far as I can tell, Jane Plummer's diary was first transcribed by one of her granddaughters, Ester Grace Alborough, nee Geldart (LYJ4-J92) in 1937. Ester presumably had access to her grandmother's original diary and her transcript, which I have not seen, was probably handwritten. Julian Bruce Geldart, her nephew, obtained a copy of Ester's transcript which he passed on to his son, Keith Geldard of Boston, KZN. In August 1977, Keith produced a typed copy of his great aunt's handwritten(?) transcript. A copy of Keith's typed transcript is currently housed in the Killie-Campbell Museum in Durban. I have no idea what became of the original diary and I have never seen a copy of it – only Keith's transcript.

Derek Comins (RIP) of Amberglen, Howick, also obtained a copy of the typed transcript from Keith himself and he very kindly passed this on to me in 2004. It is this document which I have used as the basis for my edited version below.

Keith Geldart's typed transcript clearly attempted to retain the spelling and grammar of the original diary. It does, however, also include some very obvious typing mistakes that would not have appeared in the original, such as "bessel" instead of vessel" – "b" and "v" being adjacent keys on a standard keyboard.

The last page of Keith's transcript carries the following information:

> *"First copied by E. G. Alborough (one of the third generation descendants of those early settlers.) 1937*
> *Copied by Keith Geldart in August 1977.*
> *NB. First page or pages of the diary are missing."*

In August 2004, I phoned Keith Geldard at his home in Boston, near Pietermaritzburg. He confirmed that the copy in his possession was originally transcribed by his aunt, Ester Grace Alborough, nee Geldart, as mentioned above.

In her book *"British Settlers in Natal, 1824 - 1857"* page 221, Shelagh Spencer states that:

> *"Jane and Anne Plummer, and their brother George, emigrated on the Haidee. Family tradition has it this is Jane's diary, but a reference in the text to "sister Jane" leads to the supposition that it may have been Anne's diary."*

This is the entry Shelagh was referring to:

> ***"Thursday June 27***
> *Mr W. Stockhill, Mr Lund, Mr Foggitt, Brother, Miss E Coulson,* ***Sister Jane and I*** *had a delightful sail across the Humber in a boat to a place called Paul."*

The first page, or pages of the diary are missing. The entries start almost two months before the departure of the *Haidee* on 10 July 1850. These initial entries cover the period from 13 May, when participants in Henry Boast's emigration scheme were languishing aboard the *Haidee* which was at anchor in Hull docks whilst being fitted out for the upcoming voyage. The *Haidee* was a last minute replacement for the *Pallas* which had been due to leave in early April 1850, but which was found to be unsuitable for the purpose and which was replaced by the *Haidee*. The diary also contains random entries after they landed at Port Natal on 7 October 1850, through to December of that year. Thus, this diary starts well before the diary of Patty Lofthouse and continues somewhat longer.

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The Diary of Jane Plummer

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An edited transcript by Gavin D Peckham, February 2026.

In this edited draft some of the spelling has been corrected but some "quaint" spellings have been left as is. Punctuation has been added to improve readability but much of the grammar has been left unchanged in order to try and retain the essence of the original text. I have inserted some explanatory comments in square brackets. A row of dots indicates words that could not be deciphered. Please remember that, as mentioned above, despite being widely known as the "Diary of Jane Plummer", it was probably written by her sister, Ann.
A copy of Keith Geldart's original, typed transcript is included in the Appendix.

Miss Plummer's Journal Aboard the "*Haidee*" 1850

[*The initial sentence is almost certainly the remainder of the entry for Sunday, May 12. The first part of which would have been on the missing pages referred to previously.*]

All things shall work together for good to them that love God. His sermon was chiefly addressed to those of us who are intending to emigrate in the Haidee to Port Natal.

Monday, May 13. We can scarcely persuade ourselves that we are inhabitants of a busy commercial town while we lay to the song of a little captive thrush warbling out varied notes from his little prison which is near to our bedroom window. We feel a peculiar attachment to the beautiful little creature as it reminds us of one which, for some years in the spring, perched on a tree in the orchard at the old home. We do feel that absence makes the heart grow [*The page is torn off here.*]

We expected today, to have been examined by Lieutenant Lean, but as the married people with their families had to pass first, there was not time for us. We therefore [*re*]paired to Waltham St Chapel [*in Hull*] to hear a funeral sermon preached by Mr Prest for the late Revd Richard who died last month in ....don [*probably London*] at a very advanced age ..... one of those who laboured - our venerable founder there - only two others now living who were ordained by him.

Tuesday, May 14. We passed our examination, which is merely to see whether our statements and appearance correspond with the schedules. In the afternoon we took tea with Mr Smithson's family. Mr Smithson was a native of ..... sweet wild flowers. The hawthorn hedges reminded us of the fields we have left behind. We then reluctantly returned to the smoky town of Hull and reached our lodgings about nine o'clock in the evening. A gentleman whom we did not know preached on board the Haidee from Jesus of Nazareth who went about doing good. Sister and I intend sleeping on board our ship for the first time.

The "smoky town of Hull".

Friday, May 17. Went with Miss Smithson's in a cab to see the cemetery. There we saw the graves of several hundred who had died of that awful scourger, the cholera, which was so prevalent in Hull last summer and autumn. Among others we observed a monument erected to the memory of two young gentlemen, medical students from Edenborough [*Edinburgh*] one aged 22, the other 21 who died nearly at the same time last October.

Sunday, May 19. We had the church prayer read and a sermon preached by a clergyman of the church of England, the Lieutenant acting as clerk. He is a fine old gentleman about 60 years of age. The text was 20th verse in the 18th Chapter of St Matthew's gospel. In the evening we took tea with Mr Smithson's family, then went to a chapel belonging to the independents in Albion Street expecting to hear the justly celebrated Newman Hall[1] but he was in London. We heard a very talented man [^*preach*?] from Ecclesiastics 9, verse 10.

Tuesday, May 21. Mr Boast[2] says he expects we shall leave the dock tomorrow morning. Called upon Mrs Smith and Mrs Daniel to bid farewell. She informed us of Mrs Smith's confinement, she has got a son. Last Thursday morning Mrs Rainsdale from Market Weighton came to see us.

Thursday, May 23. Mr Boast has been taken suddenly ill. The passengers have been so long delayed that they are unwilling to proceed without receiving something for the expenses they have been at, and the time they have lost, since the time which was stated for sailing. Then a dispute arose about who was to pay the expenses, which ended in a trial between Mr Boast and Mr Rylands,[3] the ship owner, and has brought on the dangerous illness which our beloved Mr Boast is labouring.

Friday, May 24. Mr Boast is worse and fears are entertained of his recovery. In the afternoon brother, sister,[4] Mr Foggitt[5] and I went in the *Prince of Wales* steamboat to New Holland.[6] Had a delightful walk in Lincolnshire and then returned by the same steamer.

Saturday, May 25. Mr Boast much worse therefore the time of our departure is very uncertain.

Thursday, May 30. How mysterious are the ways of providence. Our beloved Mr Boast is now numbered with the silent dead. His spirit took its flight a few minutes before 12 o'clock last night when he was in a state of insensibility but we entertain not the slightest doubt but that he is now where the wicked cease to trouble and the weary are at rest.[7]

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[1] Christopher Newman Hall (1816–1902) was a highly celebrated 19th-century English Congregational minister, author, and social reformer, often referred to as a "Dissenter's Bishop". He gained international fame in the 1850s and 1860s for his evangelical work, support for the abolition of slavery. After serving in Hull until 1854 he became the long-time pastor of the famous Surrey Chapel in London.

[2] Henry Boast (LTL1-27W), the organiser of the emigration scheme.

[3] Joseph Rylands was the managing director of the Hull Flax and Cotton Mills and personally owned a small fleet of ships. It was he from whom Henry Boast had contracted, first the *Pallas*, and then the *Haidee*. He was, apparently, a difficult and hard-nosed businessman.

[4] Jane Plumber (GST8-YTY) along with her sister Anne and brother George were all passengers on the *Haidee*.

[5] Mark Foggitt (M5XZ-V3P) married Jane's sister, Anne Plummer in Pietermaritzburg, Natal, two years after they had all arrived on the *Haidee*.

[6] New Holland, Lincolnshire, is on the south bank of the Humber River, directly opposite Hull.

[7] This is a quote from the Bible – Job 3:17 which, in the King James Version, reads: "There the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary be at rest."

Friday, May 31. The remains of dear Mr Boast were taken to North Dalton[8] yesterday and he is to be interred this evening at 6 o'clock.

Saturday, June 1. Mr Thomas Smith from Wildon[9] [= *Wilton*?] came on board.

Monday, June 3. Mr Comins came into our cabin and very much surprised us by saying that my father had come. I could scarcely believe him, thinking he must be mistaken, but we were soon convinced of the truth of what he said by the appearance of dear father himself, and once more in England, had the satisfaction of embracing and kissing one of the best of parents.

Map showing some of the places mentioned in the first part of this diary.

Tuesday, June 4. We went with Father to take tea with Mr Smithson's family.

Wednesday, June 5. We accompanied our dear father on the steamboat which is to convey him to York.[10] We felt very much at parting with him but we are soothed by the hope of seeing him again, even in this world tho' not in our native land. In the evening we were surprised to see Mr Edward Green from Wetherby,[11] he had come with a lady whose sister is going with her family to Port Natal.

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[8] Henry Boast was born in Huggate and subsequently lived nearby in North Dalton for quite some time. It was here that he was buried although. However, at the time he was organising his cooperative emigration scheme, he was living at Osgodby Hall. These villages are shown on the map above.

[9] There are at least three villages in Yorkshire called Wilton.

[10] Steamboats were able to voyage from Hull to York (UK) via the Humber, and then the Ouse rivers.

[11] Whetherby is about 20 km east of York and not shown on the map above.

Thursday, June 6. Mr Rylands says he will unloaden [*sic*] the ship rather than pay our expenses, but we think he only wants to intimidate us and induce us to go without any remuneration for our long detention.

Monday, June 10. We started at 6 o'clock by the *Eagle of Goole* steamer on an excursion of pleasure to Alkb [*sic*] Hills[12] and after a delightful sail of 3 hours up the river Humber[13] and Trent we reached our landing place where there are a few scattered houses. We purchased some bottles of lemonade, which the gentlemen carried in their pockets, and then proceeded to the Hills. Passed some gardens where we saw some laburnum trees richly covered with their lovely and graceful flowers which strongly reminded us of home sweet home. From the hills we had a most enchanting view of the surrounding country, corn and grass fields covered with residue [= *stubble*] and the beautiful Trent with its smooth waters could not fail to remind us of the goodness of our heavenly father. Our minds were led from nature up to nature's God.

Laburnum trees.

A view of the river Trent, near Burton.

> *O God how good beyond compare.*
> *If thus the meaner works are fair.*
> *If thus thy bounties guild the span,*
> *of ruined earth and sinful man.*
> *How glorious must thy mansion be,*
> *where thy redeemed shall worship thee.*

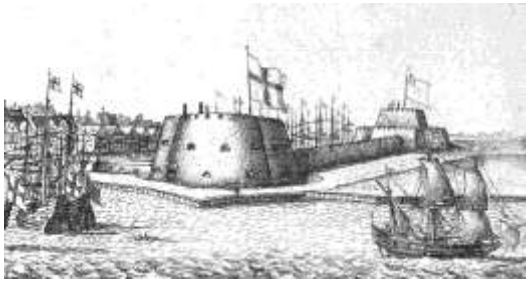
We then proceeded to a village called Burton[14] where there is a prithy [= *pritty*] little church which we entered and saw several marble tables erected to the memory of different persons. One family, of the name Sheffield, whose estate is near to this place. After passing through the village, which is a clean and lovely place, we entered a Gentleman's park[15], and seating ourselves upon a fallen tree, we spread our cloth upon the green grass and partook of some sandwiches etc. which we had brought with us, and then spent the remainder of the day in alternating rambling and resting. In the evening, we took tea at a cottage where we landed in the morning, then returned to Hull where we arrived at 8 p.m. after enjoying ourselves very much.

This is almost certainly the church Jane referred to.

[12] Alkb almost certainly stands for Alkborough at the junction of the Trent and Humber rivers.
[13] The Humber is actually not a river, but a long, tidal estuary. It starts where the Ouse and Trent rivers enter it and winds eastwards, past Hull, to its broad mouth in the North Sea.
[14] Burton is on the Trent River, about 5 km upstream (south) of Alkborough.
[15] The privately owned park of a gentleman, some of which were open to the public.

Tuesday, June 11. This day the members of the Wesleyan Society on our ship have been divided into classes and we are to meet at the vestry of Waltham St Chapel [*in Hull*] to receive tickets. Mr Prest, Mr Jackson and Mr Llewelyn were present. Mr Prest gave an exhortation in which he exhorted us to cleave to God, whether prosperity or adversity should be our portion, and set an example worthy of imitation in the country which we have adopted as our future home. Mr Jackson also gave a short address but he was very unwell and did not say much.

Wednesday, June 12. A party of us went to see the garrison.[16] We saw over the armoury where there are a great many flags, all I think British, and from age and exposure to the sun and air they are all torn to pieces. There are a great many guns, also stakes pointed and rails etc. to erect tents to lodge 1600 men.



Southern block house of the Citadel at Hull.

Thursday, June 20. Death has again visited us and seized as his prey a little child, 13 months old. It expired on Tuesday and is interred today.

Saturday, June 22. Another child has died onboard. After many trials, and on our part much anxiety, we are obliged to go without a farthing of detention money. We have signed to that effect on purpose that we may get off. We expect to sail on Tuesday.

Sunday, June 23. We have had a birth on board. Mrs Kirby[17] was confined of a daughter. Her name is to be Haidee, as I understand she is the first child born on our vessel.

Thursday, June 27. Mr W. Stockhill, Mr Lund, Mr Foggitt, Brother, Miss E Coulson,[18] **Sister Jane**[19] **and I**, had a delightful sail across the Humber in a boat to a place called Paull. We walked about in the green fields an hour or two and then sailed back to Hull. In the afternoon we attended a tea meeting in the Sailors' Institute which was provided by the mayor and others, for the emigrants on board the Haidee. Several ladies and gentlemen were present who are not of our company. After the tea speeches were delivered by several gentlemen. I. Henwood Esq[20] in the chair. The Lieutenant[21] said he hoped we should sail either on Saturday or Sunday. The ship has this day been removed into the middle of the dock to be ready for sailing.

Sunday, July 7. Mrs Heslop[22] was confined tonight of a son.

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[16] This key military installation was called the Citadel and was located on the east side of the old city on the banks of the River Hull. Nowadays, I believe it is a museum.

[17] Mary Kirby, nee Fleetham (L671-NYF) was the wife of John Kirby. They sailed with four of their other children.

[18] These passengers were: William Stockhill, Benjamin Lund, Mark Foggitt, her "brother" was George Plummer and "Miss E. Coulson" refers to one of Elizabeth Coulson's two oldest daughters, Eliza (17 y) or Emma (16 y).

[19] I have put this in bold font to again draw attention to the fact that, although this is widely known as the "Diary of Jane Plummer", it was almost certainly written by her sister Ann.

[20] This is almost certainly James Henwood, Esq. He was a partner in the banking firm Samuel Smith & Co., served as a Justice of the Peace, was a director of railway companies and Deputy Chairman of the Hull Docks Company. He was active in philanthropic and educational causes and noted as a devout Methodist. (ChatGPT)

[21] I have no idea who this is.

[22] Tabitha Heslop, nee Wood (G73G-3PP) gave birth to George Heslop (GQCS-PHN) onboard the *Haidee*.

Monday, July 8. We have at last, after many removes, left the dock and are now laying in the roads.[23] Mr Hastings and Mr Hobden from Flaseby came on board to see us. We went on shore and took a walk to the railway station and in the town.

Tuesday, July 9. Went on shore for the last time. Called upon Mr Smithson's family and then returned to the ship, not expecting to tread on English ground anymore, perhaps for ever.

Wednesday, July 10. At half past 7 o'clock we weighed anchor and reached Grimsby roads at half past 10, but the time of our final departure is still uncertain as we have left two young men at Hull, considered to be beginning the smallpox. One of them is G. Leckonby the man we had engaged to go with us, the other a stone mason of the name of Preston.

Monday, July 15. This morning we are opposite the coast of Suffolk. It was decided to leave the two young men behind under the care of a skilful surgeon. Consequently we again weighed anchor on Sunday morning about 2 o'clock. We all slept till between 5 and 6 o'clock. When we awoke most of us very sick. Some of us with great difficulty dressed ourselves and crawled on dock where we found ourselves somewhat relieved. Most of the passengers were more or less affected with sickness although the sea was unusually calm. We have passed Margate and Ramsgate and Deal and have seen, by the aid of a telescope, the seat of the Duke of Wellington,[24] and can now, Monday evening, distinctly see the beautiful white cliffs of Dover. We have written a letter to our dear parents and intent to send it on shore with the Pilot who is to leave us tonight. A boat from Dover is now alongside of our ship to take him on shore. After dark we saw the gas lights at Dover which twinkle like as many stars apparently just above the water's edge and have an uncommon and pleasing appearance.

Towns on the English Channel mentioned by Jane.

The seat of the Duke of Wellington, Walmer Castle.

Tuesday, July 16. Today we had a funeral at sea, it was the body of a fine little boy[25] about 2 or 3 years old who died this morning. His remains were placed in a deal[26] coffin and at the time

[23] Safe anchorage in the Humber estuary just offshore from Hull.
[24] This refers to Walmer Castle, just south of Deal. It was one of the Duke of Wellington's official residences. He died there in 1852.
[25] The son of John Braithwaite (MPMY-BHN) and his wife Jane, nee Horsley.
[26] Deal is a general name for any affordable, lightweight softwood, usually fir or pine.

of interment, was covered with the flag called the Union Jack and laid on some boards which were fastened by ropes. Mr Ashton one of the passengers read the service and then the coffin was lowered to the water and soon disappeared beneath the waves of the ocean, having holes bored in the end and a quantity of lead inside. This is another warning to us who are spared, and speaks loudly, "Be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh."[27]

Thursday, July 18. Towards evening the sea became rough which caused us to be sick and we were glad to tumble into our births with our cloths on and the beds rolled up.

Friday, July 19. Lost sight of the Isle of Wight. For the last four days our course has been first towards France and then England owing to contrary winds, and sometimes we have scarcely had any wind at all. We have seen the coast of France and have sailed 25 miles to and fro to gain half a mile in the right direction.

Saturday, July 20. Passed at a distance the port of Plymouth, saw Eddystone lighthouse.[28] We are now sailing calmly with a fair wind and hope soon to be clear of the English Channel.

Sunday, July 21. We sat looking at the lights of Lizard Point and lingered long looking, as they are the last we shall see on our native England, but we were obliged reluctantly, to repair to our cabin on account of the wind and dreadful rolling of the ship.

Tuesday, July 23. Yesterday and today, we have been tossed about in Biscay's Bay. Yesterday will be a day never to be forgotten. Sickness prevailed throughout the ship more or less. There were several porpoises seen in the morning and a finner[29] which we are informed is a species of whale. Few people arose until afternoon. To add to our misery, it rained all day. About two o'clock this morning they tacked the ship, when to what a scene, water kegs, hockpots,[30] beef tins, mugs, oatmeal, coffee, gruel, tea in fact almost everything on shelves tables and seats came tumbling down. Some on the berths and some on the floor, bags, baskets, bonnets, coats, dresses and everything which was hung up and could stir wagged backwards and forwards to our amusement, notwithstanding we were so ill. But it was nevertheless dismal to contemplate the floor when we felt unable to stand or clean up. A little son of Mr Potter's[31] died this afternoon after a short life of a few hours.

A fin whale.

Friday, July 26. Some scores of porpoises were seen tonight sporting in the waters, some leapt several feet above the water. We have had two more births on board this week. We have had favourable winds lately.

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[27] Gospel of Matthew 24:44, King James Version.
[28] Eddystone lighthouse is on a rock in the middle of the English Channel about 20 km SSW of Plymouth.
[29] Finner was a common name used by sailors in the 1800s to refer to a fin whale. It is the second largest mammal on earth, after the blue whale.
[30] ChatGPT says that this is almost certainly a misspelling of "oakum pots", where oakum was hemp or flax fibers, usually treated with pine tar, and traditionally used for caulking and sealing joints in wooden ships.
[31] Marianne Potter, nee Boast (GM6C-BKB) was the wife of George Potter and the younger sister of William Boast.

Tuesday, July 30. Tonight we saw at a distance of about 40 miles the Island of Madeira. We are making from 5 to 8 knots an hour.

Thursday, Aug 1. This morning we spoke a Bark [*barque*] which proved to be the *Columbine* and which laid beside us in the dock at Hull and left 3 weeks before us, but went [*north*] to Hartlepool[32] for a cargo, which place she left on the ..... . She is bound for Bombay at 4 o'clock this afternoon. We spoke another Bark the name *Thomas Oarty*, from Liverpool, they have been out 23 days and were bound for Rio in South America.

Saturday, Aug 3. We overtook and spoke another ship this morning, the name *Investigator* from London and bound for Hongkong in China. She had been out three weeks and expected to be 20 weeks from the time of starting to the time she reached her destination.

Sunday, Aug 4. We have had the church prayers read and while Mr Moss, one of the passengers, was preaching, a boat with the Captain and second mate with five sailors came from the ship we passed yesterday. We have only left her about 5 or 6 miles behind. They told us that they have on board their ship a milk cow and fresh baked bread every day. They have a Chinese lady with them. It is a very clean looking and beautiful ship but not so large as ours. Their object in visiting us, they said, was to procure tobacco and we felt sorry to see the Sabbath was thus desecrated, and more so when we could not help thinking their visit was more out of curiosity than want of tobacco, and we thought they might have visited us without breaking the Sabbath.

Monday, Aug 5. We have lost sight of the *Investigator*. A great many large fishes have been seen today. We were told they are dog nosed fishes[33] but some will maintain that they are young whales. Two sharks have also been seen last week supposed to measure in length about 9 feet. We have seen several flying fishes during the last week. This morning Mr Humble[34] killed a small pig which was sold at 9d per Ib and, as we had saved a great deal of salt meat, they exchanged some fresh for our salted. We had some roasted for dinner which, with some especially preserved potatoes, we enjoyed very much, being the first fresh meat we have tasted since leaving Hull.

Tuesday, Aug 6. This evening one of our passengers was suddenly called into eternity. His name was Welburn.[35] He was a member of the primitive methodist connection[36] and his end was peaceful and happy. May God help us who are left, so to number our days that we may apply our hearts into wisdom, and may this awful circumstance teach us that we also are mortal.

Wednesday, Aug 7. This day the heat is intense, almost unfufferable [= *insufferable*?], we are exactly under the sun.

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[32] Hartlepool is on the East coast of England, north of Hull and just south of Newcastle.
[33] In those days, porpoises were often referred to as dog-nosed fishes.
[34] Peter Humble (GCHS-1PM), his wife, Mary Jane Weatherill, nee Taylor (GCHS-1PM) and their four young children were all *Haidee* passengers.
[35] Enoch Welburn - probably the father or brother of Richard Welburn who, with his wife Mary, were also on board.
[36] The Primitive Methodist Connection was a branch of the Methodist Church founded in early 19th-century England. It adhered to the original, or foundational principles of Methodism. In this context, “primitive” does not mean “unsophisticated”.

Thursday, Aug 8. The heat is still oppressive.

Friday, Aug 9. Towards evening we passed another ship the name Flilblane [?] from Greenock[37] and bound for Bombay.

Sunday, Aug 11. The church prayers were read by Mr Ashton, one of the passengers, in the morning, after which Mr W. Stockill preached. Mr Kemp preached in the afternoon and Mr Moss in the evening.

Monday, Aug 12. The sea this morning is very rough and the rain heavy. Wrote a letter to be ready to send home, should we meet with any homeward bound vessels. The motion of our ship is so violent that we find some difficulty in standing, walking, sitting or even laying in bed. The scene below is at once distressing and laughable. It is impossible to keep order all our household goods of whatever description, falling frequently and suddenly from their proper places onto the floor, whilst all liquids which happen to share this fate, threaten almost to deluge any who may be in the way and render the floor impassable. One of the yardarms was broken in the morning. A shark was seen before dinner. In the afternoon a little infant[38] was committed to the deep who died last night, there to remain till the greedy sea shall yield her dead.

Tuesday, Aug 13. The sea still continues rough, and the motion of the vessel in the night I think, more violent than ever, threatening almost to throw us out of bed. We are now opposite Sierra Leone, but at a distance of 50 miles. A great quantity of beautiful gelly [*sic*] fishes were seen during the day. Their form appeared to somewhat resemble a fan, the colour lilac with pink edges. Mr Lofthouse endeavoured to catch some but has not yet succeeded. In the afternoon we saw a bottle nosed fish which I understand is a species of whale. It came very near the vessel and played about apparently fearing no evil. We thought it a very prithy [=*pretty*] being spotted something like a leopard.[39] Our progress today is very slow not more than 2½ or 3 knots. They are obliged to tack as we are not going in the right direction owing to contrary winds.

Atlantic spotted dolphin.

Wednesday, Aug 14. Today we saw a ship behind us but as she did not overtake us, we have not learnt the name. Mr Botterill[40] caught one of the fishes which we supposed to be a shell, but when caught, it was like nothing but a little iven [= *living*?] jelly, although as beautiful when floating in the sea. We have only been going about 1½ , 2½ and 3 knots.

Thursday, Aug 15. The ship we saw behind us yesterday has passed us during the night.

Saturday, Aug 17. Mrs W Boast confined of a still born child.[41] A shark was seen.

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[37] Greenock is on the west coast of Scotland, not far west from Glasgow.
[38] This was the baby of John Walker, his wife Esther who, with their two daughters, were all *Haidee* passengers.
[39] This would be the Atlantic spotted dolphin, *Stenella frontalis*.
[40] Thomas Botterill (MJND-BN5). His wife, Elizabeth Botterill, nee Horsley gave birth to a son aboard on July 29.
[41] William and Hannah Boast's unnamed son, FamilySearch ID of (9QB5-2QQ)

Wednesday, Aug 21. A great deal of beef has been thrown overboard as it had turned bad, probably on account of its being salted during the hot weather.

Thursday, Aug 22. Crossed the equator at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, just at the time Mrs Brittain,[42] another of our passengers entered the world of spirits, leaving a husband and child 15 months old, to lament their loss. The funeral service was performed by Mr Ashton, Mr Bell acting as clerk.

Friday, Aug 23. This morning hundreds of fishes of various kinds principally bottlenosed porpoises[43] were seen. This evening, about 5 o'clock, saw the sunset surrounded by the most brilliant clouds. This is a most beautiful but rare sight as the evenings have generally been cloudy and dull. Immediately after sunset the shades of evening begin to fall and in a few minutes one apartment [= *one's compartment / berth*] is completely dark. We went on dock to see the moon rise, which far exceeds anything of the kind we have seen in England, as it emerges from behind the thick dark clouds, tinging their edges with gold collar. The nights are so light that as to enable us to read without difficulty. The sea is unusually calm not a ripple is to be seen on the bosom of the mighty deep, but our progress is very slow. About eight o'clock a splash was made in the water when Neptune and his retinue were supposed to emerge. We soon saw the comic procession. Neptune had his face blacked and streaked with white. Another young sailor was dressed in woman's clothes and passed for his wife. The barber had on the remains of an old white apron and on his head, a large comical cap, and in one hand a forked stick. He was followed by the cook who, to make his appearance more odd, clumsily waddled with a greasy bucket on his arm. They all proceeded to the cabin to the amusement of all present. The captain after asking them several questions as to their success in fishing, gave them some grog which was the object of their visit, after which they all gracefully bowed and retired.

Monday, Aug 26. Sharks have been seen following the ship for some days, most likely on account of the great quantity of meat which has been thrown away. Yesterday some whales were seen. This morning several shoals of flying fishes were passed us. They very much resemble flocks of white pigeons but smaller. For this last day or two we have favourable winds, what they called South East Trades. We make from 7 to 9 knots an hour.

Friday, Sept 6. An albatross was seen this morning. The weather is much colder as it is now winter in these latitudes.

Friday, Sept 13. The weather is extremely cold. We have had some showers of sleet. Albatross and other birds called Cape pigeons and Cape hens[44] in great numbers. The Cape pigeon is a very pretty bird, the breast is white as snow, the head, back and wings are dark brown spotted with white, they fly at the rate of 50 miles an hour.

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[42] Carolina Brittain, first wife of James Brittain (MG17-CFW). Their son was James Digby Brittain (MSDN-12K). James senior subsequently married Mary Alice Royston (MRTM-4TQ).

[43] Both Martha Lofthouse and Jane Plummer refer exclusively to porpoises. Many of them were undoubtedly dolphins. Porpoises are smaller (max ~7 ft), with triangular dorsal fins and blunt snouts, whereas dolphins are larger (6–12 ft), possess curved dorsal fins and prominent beak-like snouts. Dolphins are more social, vocal and acrobatic than the generally shy porpoises.

[44] There were sailors' names for the Cape Petrel, *Daption capense*.

Saturday, Sept 14. The wind is very high and piercing but favourable. We have been sailing from 9 to 10 knots for some days. The ship again pitches and rolls with all her might, frequently throwing us off our feet and from our seats and placing us, with our mugs, jugs and what not in the most ludicrous positions. We find it rather difficult at all times to keep our patience, but having got all things put to rights, we soon join the hearty laugh of our more fortunate companions. One the passengers was holding a bowl of flour which she was about to make up when [*in*] a moment she was thrown backwards on the floor, followed by the contents of her bowl, to the no small amusement of all witnesses.

Sunday, Sept 15. Fair wind. The sea very rough and roared tremendously towards evening. The wind rose to nearly a gale, the royals[45] were taken in and the lower sails closely reefed. Encountered several heavy squalls, the sea constantly running over the main deck and splashing over the forecastle.[46] We have lately seen another kind of bird called whale birds,[47] which are said to feed on dead whales. They are beautiful little creatures, slate coloured and white. Got out of the Western and entered the Eastern hemisphere.

Wednesday, Sept 18. The weather has, for this last week, been stormy and unsettled but now it is much milder and warmer. There is a bark [*barque*] on our starboard bow but at too great a distance to be spoken. Expecting to be off the Cape tomorrow if the wind continues.

Thursday, Sept 19. We are now off the Cape at a distance of 100 miles. The weather is remarkably fine for the season as this is the worst month in the year in this part. The chief mate has been [*on*] 16 and the sailmaker [*on*] 20 voyages and both say they never knew it so fine so near the Cape. They are preparing the boats and getting out the chain cables.[48] We past the mast of a vessel. We are about 900 miles from Port Natal.

Saturday, Sept 21. We are off Table Bay almost 80 miles. The morning was very fine but towards evening wind got up and blew quite a gale.

Sunday, Sept 22. The wind blew so hard we were obliged to boat the ship[49] as we were in danger of being driven too near land. At 4 o'clock [*we*] saw land which was Algoa Bay[50] about 80 miles distant.

Monday, Sept 23. Wind has been stronger last night, and this morning, than ever we have known it. The sails were taken down with the exception of two, and with those we sailed 11 and 12 miles an hour, but the violent pitching of the vessel caused most of us to be affected with sickness. A few of us ventured on deck towards evening when things were a little more settled.

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[45] A royal is a small sail flown immediately above the topgallant on square rigged sailing ships. It was originally called the "topgallant royal" and was used only in light and favourable winds.

[46] Pronounced as “folk-sill” !

[47] This is a general term applied by sailors of the time to several species of gulls.

[48] Anchor chains.

[49] To “boat the ship” - in strong winds near land, sailing vessels sometimes used their ship’s boats (launch, longboat, etc.) to lay out additional anchors or to tow the bow around to facilitate sailing away from land.

[50] The city of Port Elizabeth (now Gqeberha) is located in Algoa Bay. It was established in 1820 and is about 700 km south west of their destination at Port Natal (Durban).

Saturday, Sept 28. The sea is so clam that some of the young men have been out in a boat on a shooting excursion. They brought with them an albatross, a cape hen and cape pigeon, a whale bird and others. They have often caught birds by attaching a bait to a fish hook, the hook being fastened to a line. Our progress this week has been very slow owing to calms and contrary winds.

Thursday, Oct 3. This evening while they were altering the sails, a sudden and very heavy squall coming on the wheel by which the ship is steered, was taken out of the man' s hand, which might have been of very serious consequence but fortunately the man escaped unhurt. The swindle [= *spindle, shaft, axle*] of the wheel was very much bent but nothing broken.

The wheel, or helm.

Friday, Oct 4. The ship carpenter and an emigrant who is a blacksmith, with the assistance of some of the sailors, repaired the wheel. They filled a tub, with coals upon which they made a fire, keeping that part of the deck wet to prevent any accident from fire. There is scarcely any wind. The ship not sailing more than ½ a knot to 1 an hour.

Saturday, Oct 5. Last night the wind rose, and being fair for us, we have sailed briskly for the last 12 hours. The face of almost every passenger now wears a smile, as we expect soon to reach our destined port.

Sunday, Oct 6. Sighted land this morning at daybreak and in a few hours we were so near as to distinctly see the shore of what we supposed to be Natal. But as we were not far enough, and the Captain being acquainted with the coast, we put out to sea again. About 6 o'clock p.m. the wind rose and Mr R Smith was obliged to close the religious service at the conclusion of the second hymn. The rain began to fall and we had a dreadful thunder storm. The forked lightning was awfully grand shooting up the heavens in yellow streams. At other times the sky appeared on fire, the thunder roared and cracked tremendously, but we had not much rain. Before bedtime the storm abated. For this we felt thankful to that God whom winds and seas obey.

Monday, Oct 7. Soon this morning we were told that land was visible. About 7 o'clock we looked through our windows and again beheld the green mountains. We were soon on deck and discovered what the Captain thought would be the bluff which forms the one side of the bay of Natal. This proved to be as expected for when we were a little nearer, we saw by the aid of a telescope, the lighthouse and flag staff on the top of which we soon saw waving in the breeze the colours which meant what ship is that and wither bound. We answered the "Haidee" from Hull. Others were then hoisted signifying they had

Entrance to Port Natal harbour with the Bluff on the left.

sent to report us at D'Urban. We sailed delightfully until opposite the bay and then dropt [*sic*] anchor at ½ past 10 o'clock am. The harbour master came on board bringing with him a letter from Mr Lund to Mr Boast, Smith and others. Messrs Tutin and Lund[51] are in the neighbourhood and in good health. Two surf boats were sent from the port to land the passengers as the ship is much too large to cross the bar. They were filled with goods and passengers and proceeded to the landing place which is about 3 miles distant.

BRITISH IMMIGRANTS — SEA TREKKERS OF NATAL
Landing at The Point, Durban, circa 1849-1850
Sketch by Daphne Strutt, Old House Museum, Durban.
Reprod. Natal Photo.

Tuesday, Oct 8. Left the ship Haidee at 12 o'clock after living on board 5 months and 4 days. We have made a good passage for the season. We have been [*at sea for*] 12 weeks and 1 day while others have been 17 weeks and sailed from London. We had rather a tedious sail in the boats,[52] the wind being against us. It rained nearly all way which made it very unpleasant as we were rather crowded. We were about 70 passengers in number, with a great deal of luggage and beds. We saw a kaffir on the beach carrying a plank, part of a wreck we supposed, as the emigrant ships "Minerva" and "Brittish Tar" have been wrecked lately on this dangerous coast. We reached the landing place about 5 p.m. We sheltered under the verandah belonging to the custom house until the rain abated and then walked to D'Urban, there not being room in the waggon and cart which were all the conveyances there. (The kaffirs not liking to work in the wet crossed out.) The walk through the bush was most delightful to us. It is so long since we enjoyed the privilege. The road was very sandy, we often sank up to the ankles in it. We met with some of our friends and being very wet and uncomfortable, put up at the Trafalgar Inn. There was some fires in the back kitchen where we partly dried our wet garments. Got our tea in a room which should consider in England a decent stable, but the floor was matted and we had seats and a table and what was but an excellent tea to which we did ample justice being so long confined to salt provisions. How

[51] James Tutin and Benjamin Lund had travelled to Natal ahead of the emigrants in order to select and purchase suitable land for subdivision into small, arable plots on which they could settle.
[52] Landing boats transporting passengers from the *Haidee* to the shore.

thankful we feel to that God who holds the wind in the hollow of his hand for preserving us so long on the mighty deep and permitting us once more to tread upon the solid ground.

Wednesday, Oct 9. Went down to the beach to watch the [*landing*] boats come in, the second was brother George, safe and well. He went to see the wreck of the British Tar, the ropes and sails of which is to be sold in lots for auction. We rode in a waggon to the town and such a jostling shaking ride I never remembered having before, but for my own part I quite enjoyed it. The kaffir boy who drove us ran and danced by the side of the wagon crying "Here's your sorts" evidently proud of knowing a little English. On the road he managed to pass a white boy who was driving a cart. He was delighted with his success and frequently turning round and shouting triumphantly, "Me good quick, me good quick".

Thursday, Oct 10. They have been erecting one tent. Sister and I have had a walk in the bush which, in many places, resembles a gentleman's shrubbery, but there are not many flowers nor yet fruit as it is the beginning of Spring here. Captain Hopkinson has engaged a buggy to convey the luggage on shore, which will cost Mr Rylands about £200.

Saturday, Oct 12. The brig[53] has got into the bay with part of the goods and will begin to unload on Monday. Most of the tradesmen who came out with us have got work and good wages but provisions are generally dear.

Wednesday, Oct 23. Today there has been a wedding at the church. I think the bridegroom is an officer in the army. There were carriages with four bullocks and a wagon pulled by 14 oxen, they were escorted by men on horseback who all dismounted when the carriages stopped. The ladies were nearly all in white, the gentlemen principally in regimentals. There was a very large party of them. They had, to us who had lately come, a very odd appearance, so different to the English mode of teaching. [*sic*] [= *dressing*?]

Friday, Nov 8. [Something is missing here.] ... to go further than Maritzburg.

Saturday, Nov 30. Mrs Comins, Sen, Miss Comins, Mr R and wife and child, Mr Fox and Joseph have left Durban. The Dutch farm[54] is now bought and they are going to lay out a township in or near which we intent to live. The name of the town is to be York as we are all with one or two exceptions from Yorkshire.

Wednesday, Dec 11. The Pallas from Hull has arrived with 18 passengers. This is the ship which Mr Boast first chartered but it was not passed by the inspectors, it being too small for such a great number of us.

Comments added by Keith Geldart:

That finishes what is left of the original.
First copied by E. G. Alborough (one of the third generation descendants of those early settlers.) 1937
Copied by Keith Geldart in August 1977.
NB. First page or pages of the diary are missing.

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[53] Possibly the brig *Emily*, which arrived off Port Natal on 10 October 1850.
[54] This was the farm *Milie Hoogte*, about 30 km NNE of Pietermaritzburg where many of the party settled.

William Boast's Account of the 1850 Voyage of the *Haidee*

An edited transcript by Gavin D Peckham, February 2026. Back to Contents

William Boast wrote this account of their voyage on Saturday October 5, two days before the *Haidee* dropped anchor off Port Natal. Stuart Heslop sent me a copy of this handwritten letter, as well as his transcript of it in March of 2021. My transcript, and a copy of the handwritten original appear in the Appendix.

I have edited the version given below in order to improve its readability. Some of the spelling has been corrected but some "quaint" spellings have been left as is. Punctuation has been added to improve readability but much of the grammar has been left unchanged in order to try and retain the essence of the original text.

Note: *abc* = words I could not decipher but am confident are correct
abc? = words I could not decipher but are a logical guess
? = words I could not decipher or even guess

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Ship Haidee, coast of Africa

Saturday Oct 5th 1850

Dear Father, Brothers & Sisters,

Not having a doubt in our minds, but that you will be very anxious to hear whether we have reached our destination in safety or not. I feel very thankful today that we are within a few miles of *port*? and expect to be landed in *two* or three days. It will be *two months*? since we left Grimsby roads[55] on Sunday morning which has certainly been a longer passage than we

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calculated upon. Yet upon the whole we have had a splendid passage never having what the sailors call a *green sea*[56]. The whole of the way we have never been hatched down, although we have very oft had the ship pitching and rolling about so that we were not able to stand without having a good hold of something or other. I think that neither me nor my wife[57] have ever been the least alarmed as regards our safety the whole of the *headway*? after we had been on board about *a fortnight*. The wind blew very strong from the south east having been remarkably calm until then. Most of the passengers [?*missing text possibly about sea sickness*?]

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heads from the pillow all the day. We have not been able to dress poor little Anne[58] or scarcely to get her any meal. As for ourselves, the very thought of such a thing [*presumably sea sickness*?] was sufficient. However, over the course of two or three days we got over it, although a few have suffered more or less from it the greatest part of the way. On the 16th of August my wife began to be very *ill* and full of pain the doctor giving her something which relieved her *some*. At 4 o'clock on Saturday morning ? I had to fetch the doctor and about ? in the forenoon she was delivered *of* a fine, *kindly* faced little lad[59], I ??

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[55] Roads, short for roadstead, was the name used for a sheltered body of water close to the shore where ships can safely drop anchor and wait. Grimsby roads is in the estuary of the Humber River not far from Hull.
[56] ChatGPT assures me that this is almost certainly the term that would have been used by sailors in the 1850s.
[57] Hannah Lofthouse was William Boast's (MG58-821) wife. They married two years before leaving England.
[58] Anne (KZQX-MFX) was the eldest child of William and Hannah Boast. Having been born in England in 1849.
[59] William and Hannah Boast's baby son was still born and buried at sea.

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??? and in the evening ??? after he had been sewed in canvass, committed the body of *her* dear little babe to the *watery* deep, which felt very painful to our feelings. I got Mrs Welbourn[60] to amuse dear Hannah[3] which I was very grateful about, she being in a weak and *precarion*[61] state and having had a most severe time. I feel truly thankful that she *mended* far better than either the doctor or anyone could have expected, being able to walk about a little in a fortnight. At the present both myself and her are enjoying a good state of health. We put Anne[4] out to nurse with a woman by the name of Cass[62] who will keep her until we land. She looks

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remarkably well and fat. And ? very interesting, we have plenty of *food* allowed, in fact more than we *ever* eat. Our pigs live out of ? other ? that they get from the passengers and are very fat. We *sometimes* wish that we could drop *in* and get tea with you. Would not *that* be a treat? Yes your ham and ? and butter. Would not they be a *gladsome* treat? I just believe they would. We *began* to long for a taste of fresh meat or bread. We have not seen half so many of either fish or birds as we expected to have seen. We have had, for the last month, a good many Cape Pigeons[63] following the ship daily for what they can gather up. Also, some albatrosses a very large bird measuring better than 9 feet across the

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wings and some large black birds, about the size of your geese, which they call Boobys. We have seen several whales today but only of a small species. We have had for a little amusement during our voyage, several boat races among the young men for a few bottles of wine. Likewise a few shooting matches, at a board slung at the head of mizen mast. I would have written more about our passage, but Mr Potter has been keeping a journal of every day's proceeds since we left the Humber, which he is going to send to Mrs Mason of Nafferton,[64] so that if you apply to my brothers at Alton[65] they will gladly lend it to you to peruse, so that you will get to know every particular. Both me and my wife feel anxious for you to read it. We have had 8 children born in the ship, and six deaths,

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four of them being quite [just] children. Enoch Wellbourn[66] being one of the others, John & Benjamin's *man?* the other being a woman the name of Brittain[67]. Sunday Oct 6th. This morning we came in sight of land. Nearly all the passengers hastened on deck being very anxious to get sight of land. The sight was certainly most enchanting. It looks a very romantic country, the grass appears green but partly covered with brush wood or *wins*,[68] and we could distinguish a few houses back in the *inland*. The coast, and the land that we can see, looks delightful. The wind was changing quite lot ahead of us. We were compelled to put out again to sea and did not come in sight of land until Monday morning. We sailed on

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[60] Mary Welburn, wife of Robert Welburn

[61] ChatGPT assures me that "precarion" was the commonly used term in the 1850s and equivalent to "precarious".

[62] Jane Cass (MPTR-M5R), nee Clarkson was the wife of Thomas Cass.

[63] This is the term commonly used in the 1850s for the Cape Petrel (*Daption capense*) which was well known for following ships for days and which was very common especially off the west coast of Southern Africa.

[64] This village in Yorkshire is east of York and north of Hull.

[65] A village in Hampshire, England.

[66] Enoch Welburn - probably the father or brother of Richard Welburn who, with his wife Mary, were also on board. According to Jane Plummer's diary, Enoch Welburn died onboard the *Haidee* on Tuesday, 6th August 1850.

[67] Carolina Brittain, wife of James Brittain (MG17-CFW). According to Jane Plummer's diary, Carolina died on 22 August, 1850, the day the *Haidee* crossed the equator, leaving James with a 15 month old son.

[68] In the context of the UK in the 1850s, ChatGPT assures me that "whins" was the term then commonly used for the thorny shrub, gorse, which is widely common in the UK.

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up coast until we arrived in ?, ? when the captain cast the anchor, and in about an hour a custom house officer came on board. He informed us that Mr Lund was well and looking out for us having arrived on the 27th of May. I have no doubt but he will have made preparation for our landing . Oct 8th. We left the ship with our bedding and set our feet once more on the land. Mr Lund had waggons provided to convey us up to Durban with 14 bullocks. Mr and Mrs Henry went to a house, newly built, very small, without either shelf or cupboard, for which we are to pay £ 3 per month. The scenery is beautiful but the houses are miserable. The roads are very bad in the town being ankle deep in sand. You scarcely can see an acre of land cultivated. Beef is 2d[69] to 3d per lb[70],

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flour 3d per stone[71], sugar ???, coffee 1d per lb. Mr Lund & Mr R. Smith have gone to engage the land which I expect to be ready next week, but the cost will be so heavy getting up to it[72] that a many of us will not be able to go to it at present. Mr Lund has taken a farm within 5 miles of Durban for twelve months for nothing. I have been to see it. He has been reaping a crop of barley, oats, beans and mealies[73] which have only been sown four months. Potatoes are 10s [74] per bushel.[75] He has also had a very good crop [*of potatoes?*], a finer sample than you produce. Cabbages are 6d each and all kinds of vegetables very highly priced. We have any quantity of the load for the same terms which he has it at, which is very kind. So that we intend going immediately and setting to work

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in good earnest with our men, and hope in the course of a little time to be enabled to take up the other land. The land that is there for us to settle upon is about 20 miles from Maritzburgh[76] and by what our opinioneers[77] say about it, as well as other people, it is the best place in the colony for a location. I feel confident that when we get located, and after a short time, say a year or two, we shall be happy and comfortable. I like the appearance of the land what I have seen I have no doubt <u>*we can*</u> produce anything we want. The road between here and Maritzburgh is better than we expected. Some of our party have been there and like the appearance of the country about Maritzburgh very much. The cattle appear very

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healthy. If I had just <u>*not paid*</u>? passage out, and had my money in my pocket, I should have been alright, for you may purchase perhaps 200 acres of land, and part of it cultivated, good land for £ 150 by paying £ 50 down, 50 in 5 years' time and the remainder in 10 years. Anyone coming out here with 2 or 3 hundred pound may do well. Mr Byrne is in great disgrace here. The last ship that came out 6 months ago brought emigrants, and the greater part of them have not been put on their land yet, and are in a state of destitution. Some of them have even

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[69] The abbreviation 'd' for a British penny originates from the Latin word '*denarius'*, a Roman silver coin.

[70] The abbreviation 'lb' for pound originates from the Latin word '*libra'*, which referred to the ancient Roman unit of weight and means 'balance' or 'scales'. It stems from the phrase *libra pondo* ("a pound by weight"), where '*libra'* provided the abbreviation *lb*, while *pondo* evolved into the English word 'pound'.

[71] The stone is a weight equal to 14 pounds or about 6.35 kg. This archaic unit of weight is still commonly in use in the UK to this very day!

[72] I.e. the cost of transport from Durban, to their allocated land in York, KZN, was too expensive to afford.

[73] This is a South African term for maize or corn.

[74] The abbreviation 's' for a British shilling originates from the Latin word '*solidus'*, which was a Roman coin.

[75] 1 Bushel = 8 Gallons. 1 Gallon = 4 Quarts. 1 Quart = 2 pints. An archaic system still used throughout the USA.

[76] An old fashioned abbreviation for Pietermaritzburg. Currently the name is abbreviated as Maritzburg, PMBurg, or simply PMB.

[77] ChatGPT assures me that this word was not uncommon in the 1850s and often used in a slightly sarcastic way.

sold their 20 acres for a glass of grog. The land that he had bought for them being so very useless

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and bad - and perhaps 50 miles off.[78] Durban is full of store keepers, *inn* keepers, bakers, butchers, coffee houses and most of them are doing extremely well, owing to the vast number of emigrants that have arrived the last 6 months. Very few of them have money to cultivate their land, so they commence a little shop or coffee house on their arrival. The thing that is wanted is people to cultivate the land, and that must be done before the colony can rise. Here is a ready market for all you can produce. We are near a butcher's shop. He regularly kills 2 beasts in the day, one in the morning and

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the other in the evening. They cut them up warm and immediately commence selling them. The beef is not so fat as yours. They weigh about 60 stone each. Vessels have been detained here for 5 or 6 weeks before they could land either the passengers or goods. We are highly favoured. We often wish you could just have a peep at us. You would be astonished to see our mansion and our proceedings. But never mind, all was done for the best and we feel assured that with perseverance and care we shall, after a while, reap a reward. The climate appears to be very

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healthy particularly up country. The natives are a quiet and honest race of men being completely naked except a small covering across their loin. Also, being very plump and stronger made than the English. The women are very ordinary compared to the men. Some of their breasts hanging down in front. At the least now, my much esteemed father, brothers and sisters, you must excuse me saying any more. But I will write again before long and then I shall be able to tell you more of the country. I am very

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? *and?*. We have not lost our love *for* you and shall be very anxious to hear from you at the first opportunity *you* have to write, and believe in us for certain until death. Your much *affecked*[79] son and daughter,

W^m^ & Hannah Boast

PS We attended the chapel on Sunday. A very neat place. It was well attended, and after the service we went into the adjoining (K word) chapel. What a strange sight it was. A missionary was preaching to them in their own language. The women that got converted have a print *dress*? round them without any under clothes and an old handkerchief tied round their heads. Such ? looking creatures you scarcely can imagine. I think they look much better in their native attire. We stood until they all came out ,most of them lowering their heads and smiling as they passed.

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[78] This is the land allocated to the Byrne settlers in the Byrne valley near Richmond.

[79] ChatGPT assures me that this was standard usage at the time and that the word is equivalent to the more modern word 'affected'. However, we would not even use the phrase, "Your affected son." nowadays!

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The Diaries of Jane Plummer and Patty Lofthouse Compared

The following table contains my "as is" transcripts the Plummer and Lofthouse diaries. Apart from allowing a direct comparison of the two diaries, this also provides digital, editable versions of both Keith Geldart's and Brian Spencer's hard copies.

The two diaries are compared day by day, side by side. It is interesting to see how similarly, or how differently, these two ladies noted and recorded events during the voyage.

There are no footnotes in this section. If necessary, refer to my edited versions above.

The existing record of Jane Plummer's diary starts in early May, 1850 while the *Haidee* was at anchor in the port of Hull and being provisioned for the upcoming trip. Patty Lofthouse only began her diary almost two months later, on 8 July, when the *Haidee* was about to sail. For this reason, the column on the right is blank for quite some way, until the dates in the two diaries coincide.

Diary of Jane Plummer **Transcribed by Gavin Peckham from Keith Geldart's typed hard copy.**	**Diary of Martha (Patty) Lofthouse** **Transcribed by Gavin Peckham from Brian Spencer's handwritten hard copy.**
[*Sunday, May 12*] *The first part of this entry would have been on the missing pages,*] All things shall work together for good to them that love God. His sermon was chiefly addressed to those of us who are intending to emigrate in the Haidee to Port Natal. **Monday May 13** We can scarcely persuade ourselves that we are inhabitants of a busy comercial town while we lay to the song of a little captive thrush wabling out varied notes from his little prison which is near to our bedroom window, we feel a peculiar attachment to the beautiful little creature as it reminds us of one which for some years in the spring perched on a tree in the orchard at the old home, we do feel that	**Scroll down quite a long way – to July 8 – to reach the first entry.**

absence makes the heart grow (torn off here).

We expected today to have been examined by Lieutennant Lean but as the married people with their familys had to pass first there was not time for us, we therefore (re)paired to Waltham St Chapel to hear a funeral sermon preached by Mr Prist for the late Revd Richard who died last month in ---don [probably London] at a very advanced age ------ one of those who laboured - our venerable founder there - only two others now living who were ordained by him.

Tuesday May 14
We passed our examination which is merely to see whether our statements and appearance correspond with the shedules. In the afternoon we took tea with Mr Smithson's family, Mr Smithson was a native of --- (more missing) --- sweet wild flowers, the Hawthorn hedges reminded us of the fields we have left behind. We then reluctantly returned to the smoky town of Hull and reached our lodgings about nine o'clock in the evening. A gentleman whom we did not know preached on board the Haidee from Jesus of Nazareth who went about doing good, Sister and I intend sleeping on board our ship for the first time.

Friday May 17
Went with Miss Smithson's in a cab to see the cemetry there we saw the graves of several hundred who had died of that awful scourger, the Cholera, which was so prevalent in Hull last Summer and Autumn among others we observed a monument erected to the memory of two young gentlemen medical students from Edinborough one aged 22, the other 21

who died nearly at the same time last October.

Sunday May 19
We had the church prayer read and a sermon preached by a clergyman of the church of Englang, the Lieutenant acting as clerk. He is a fine old gentleman about 60 years of age. The text was 20th verse in the 18th Chapter of St Mathew's gospel. In the evening we took tea with Mr Smithsons family then went to a chapel belonging to the independants in Albion Street expecting to hear the justly celebrated Newman Hall but he was in London. We heard a very talented man from Ecclesastics 9. 10 verse.

Tuesday May 21
Mr Brast [= Boast?] says he expects we shall leave the dock tomorrow morning. Called upon Mrs Smith and Mrs Daniel to bid farewell, she informed us of Mrs Smith's confinement, she has got a son. Last Thursday morning Mrs Rainsdale from Marketweighton came to see us.

Thursday May 23
Mr Boast has been taken suddenly ill, the passengers have been so long delayed that they are unwilling to proceed without receiving something for the expenses they have been at and the time they have lost since the time which was stated for sailing. Then a dispute arose about who was to pay the expenses which ended in a trial between Mr Boast and Mr Rylands, the ship owner, and has brought on the dangerous illness which our beloved Mr Boast is labouring.

Friday May 24
Mr Boast is worse and fears are entertained of his recovery. In the afternoon Brother, Sister, Mr Foggitt and I

went in the Price of Wales steamboat to New Holland. Had a delightful walk in Lincolnshire and then returned by the same steamer.

Saturday May 25
Mr Boast much worse therefore the time of our departure is very uncertain.

Thursday May 30
How mysterious are the ways of providence our beloved Mr Boast is now numbered with the silent dead, his spirit took its flight a few minutes before 12 o'clock last night when he was in a state of insensibility but we entertain not the slightest doubt but that he is now where the wicken [sic] ceases to trouble and the weary are at rest.

Friday May 31
The remains of dear Mr Boast were taken to North Dalton yesterday and he is to be interred this evening at 6 o'clock.

Saturday, June 1
Mr Thomas Smith from wildon came on board.

Monday June 3
Mr Comins came into our cabin and very much surprised us by saying that my father had come. I could scarcely believe him thinking he must be mistaken but we were soon convinced of the truth of what he said by the appearance of dear father himself, and once more in England had the satisfaction of embracing and kissing one of the best of parents.

Tuesday June 4
We went with Father to take tea with Mr Smithson's family.

Wednesday June 5
We accompanied our dear father on the steamboat which is to convey him to York.

We felt very much at parting with him but we are soothed by the hope of seeing him again even in this world tho not in our native land. In the evening we were surprised to see Mr Edward Green from Wetherby, he had come with a lady whose sister is going with her family to port Natal. **Thursday June 6** Mr Rylands says he will unloaden [sic] the ship rather than pay our expenses, but we think he only wants to intimidate us and induce us to go without any remineration for our long detention. **Monday June 10** We started at 6 o'clock by the Eagle of Goole steamer on an excursion of pleasure to Alkb [sic] Hills and after a delightful sail of 3 hours up the river Humber and Trent we reached our landing place where there are a few scattered houses. We purchased some bottles of Lemonade which the gentlemen carried in their pockets and then proceeded to the Hills. Passed some gardens where we saw some Laburnum trees richly covered with their lovely and graceful flowers which strongly reminded us of home sweet home. From the hills we had a most enchanting view of the surrounding country, corn and Grass fields covered with residue and the beautiful Trent with its smooth waters could not fail to remind us of the goodness of our heavenly father, our minds were led from nature up to natures God. *O God how good beyond compare.* *If thus the meaner works are fair.* *If thus they [thy?] bounties guild the span,* *of ruined earth and sinful man.* *How glorious must thy mansion be,* *where thy redeemed shall worship thee.*	

We then proceeded to a village called Burton where there is a prithy little church which we entered and saw several marble tables erected to the memory of different persons. One family of the name Sheffield whose estate is near to this place. After passing through the village which is a clean and lovely place, we entered a Gentlemans park and seating ourselves upon a fallen tree we spread our cloth upon the green grass and partook of some sandwiches etc. which we had brought with us, and then spent the remainder of the day in alternating rambling and resting. In the evening we took tea at a cottage where we landed in the morning and then returned to Hull where we arrived at 8pm after enjoying ourselves very much.

Tuesday June 11

This day the members of the Wesleyan society on our ship have been divided into classes and we are to meet at the vestry of Waltham St Chapel to receive tickets. Mr Prest, Mr Jackson and Mr Lewelyen [sic] were present. Mr Prest gave an exhortation in which he exhorted us to cleave to God wether prosperity or adversity should be our portion and set an example worthy of imitation in the country which we have adopted as our future home. Mr Jackson also gave a short address but he was very unwell and did not say much.

Wednesday June 12

A party of us went to see the gavison. We saw over the armoury where there are a great many flags, all I think British, and from age and exposure to the sun and air they are all torn to pieces. There are a great many guns also stakes pointed and rails etc. to erect tents to lodge 1600 men.

Thursday June 20

Death has again visited us and seized as his prey a little child 13 months old. It expired on Tuesday and is interred today. **Saturday June 22** Another child has died onboard. After many trials and on our part much anxiety we are obliged to go without a farthing of detention money. We have signed to that effect on purpose that we may get off. We expect to sail on Tuesday. **Sunday June 23** We have had a birth on board. Mrs Kirby was confined of a daughter. Her name is to be Haidee as I understand she is the first child born on our vessel. **Thursday June 27** Mr W. Stockhill, Mr Lund, Mr Foggitt, Brother, Miss E Coulson, **Sister Jane and I** had a delightful sail across the Humber in a boat to a place called Paul. We walked about in the green fields an hour or two and then sailed back to Hull. In the afternoon we attended a tea meeting in the Sailors Institute which was provided by the Mayor and others for the emigrants on board the Haidee. Several ladies and gentlemen were present who are not of our company. After the tea speeches were delivered by several gentlemen. I Hend-wood Esqr in the chair. The Lieutenant said he hoped we should sail either on Saturday or Sunday, the ship has this day been removed into the middle of the dock to be ready for sailing. **Sunday, July 7** Mrs Hislop was confined to night of a son.	
Monday July 8 We have at last after many removes left the dock and are now laying in the roads. Mr Hastings and Mr Hobden from Fflaseby [sic] came on board to see us. We went	**Monday July 8** Left the Hull Dock at 5 p.m. anchored outside the dock till Wednesday the 10th 7 p.m. two young men left the ship bad in the

on shore and took a walk to the railway station and in the town. **Tuesday July 9** Went on shore for the last time. Called upon Mr Smithson's family and then returned to the ship not expecting to tread on English ground anymore perhaps for ever. **Wednesday July 10** At half past 7 o'clock we weighed anchor and reached Grunsby roads at half past 10, but the time of our final departure is still uncertain as we have left two young men at Hull considered to be beginning the smallpox. One of them is G. Leckonby the man we had engaged to go with us, the other a stone mason of the name of Preston.	Small Pox when we left and anchored in the Grimsby Roads.
	Friday July 12 Their still, rather tedious but better than I expected **Saturday July 13** Still in Grimsby. Sailed from their at 2 am. **Sunday July 14** morning us as most on board where seasick.
Monday July 15 This morning we are opposite the coast of Suffork. It was decided to leave the two young men behind under the care of a skillfull surgeon, consequently we again weighed anchor on Sunday morning about 2 o'clock. We all slept till between 5 and 6 o'clock. When we awoke most of us very sick, some of us with great difficulty dressed ourselves and crawled on dock where we found ourselves somewhat relieved most of the passengers were more or less affected with sickness although the sea was unusually calm. We have passed Margate and Ramsgate and Deal and have seen by the aid of a telescope the seat of	**Monday July 15** Rather better a pig that had fits some days breathed its last this morning and was buryed in the deep the pilot left us at 10 pm off Dover

the Duke of Wellington, and can now, Monday evening, distinctly see the beautiful white cliffs of Dover. We have written a letter to our dear parents and intent to send it on shore with the Pilot who is to leave us tonight. A boat from Dover is now alongside of our ship to take him on shore. After dark we saw the gass lights at Dover which twinkle like as many stars apparently just above the waters edge and have an uncommon and pleasing appearance.	
Tuesday July 16 Today we had a funeral at sea, it was the body of a fine little boy about 2 or 3 years old who died this morning. His remains were placed in a deal coffin and at the time of interment was covered with the flag called the union Jack and laid on some boards which were fastened by ropes. Mr Ashton one of the passengers read the service and then the coffin was lowered to the water and soon disappeared beneath the waves of the ocean, having holes bored in the end and a quantity of lead inside. This is another warning to us who are spared and speaks loudly, be yee also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh.	**Tuesday July 16** When off Dungeness lighthouse a passenger thought he should like a bath so jumped overboard with his clothes on after that another thought he should like to have his clothes off but he had a narrow escape the tide took him out and they had to lower a boat to fetch him back 1/2 an hour after when we where at Breakfast a child died belonging to Mr & Mrs Braithwaite and was buried at 4 PM. Mr Ashton was the pastor and old Mr Smith clerk a funeral at sea is a most imposing scene. Made very little way since we got into the British Channel.
	Wednesday July 17 A calm sea and made very little Progress afternoon a tremendous thunderstorm awfully grand I have no doubt but the rain was so heavy that we not see it we where cornered down with tarpolins we got on deck about 10 PM and the lightning was beautifull ~~after we had retired to rest a storm arose and we lost the Main top gallant yards and had a ruff sea all the next day~~.
Thursday July 18	**Thursday July 18**

Towards evening the sea became rough which caused us to be sick and we were glad to tumble into our births with our cloths on and the beds rolled up.	Windy 12 pm the wind got very high and at 6 pm had a narrow escape of running into brigg at night lost the main top gallant yard and where nearly all seasick.
Friday July 19 Lost sight of the Isle of Weight. For the last four days our course has been first towards France and then England owing to contrary winds and sometimes we have scarcely had any wind at all. We have seen the coast of France and have sailed 25 miles to and fro to gain half a mile in the right direction.	**Friday July 19** Ruff sea and the wind against us made very little way and at 6 pm came in sight of the Isle of White ..... Barque in view tacked close before us a beautiful sight to see a ship in full sails by moonlight.
Saturday July 20 Passed at a distance the port of Plymouth, saw Eddystone lighthouse. We are now sailing calmly with a fair wind and hope soon to be clear of the English Channel.	**Saturday July 20** A beautiful morning light breeze, first favourable since leaving the Downs about 4 miles per hour. The French barque 2 miles astern no land in view about noon. Made Torbay at 10 pm abrest Start Point with lighthouse a barque Jenny Jones of Swansea crost our bows but we left far astern before night got the new top gallant yard up by about noon
Sunday July 21 We sat looking at the lights of Lizzard Point and lingered long looking as they are the last we shall see on our native England, but we were obliged reluctantly to repair to our cabin on account of the wind and dreadful rolling of the ship.	**Sunday July 21** A calm clear morning not a breeze to stir the sails nor ripple the surface of the sea the ship going back fast with the tide land and a good many vessels in sight had church service at 10½ after which Mr ..... addressed a few words read the evening service in afternoon by Mr Ashton and Mr Bell had preaching in the evening. Saw Eddystone at 2 pm view of Plymouth and ..... the vessel pitched very much ..... night a dreadfull sick night for many of the passengers the Lizzard lights in sight.
	Monday July 22 Past a terable night the ..... and Pitching nearly out of bed all night no

	..... and a continual rain all sick no eating or cooking.
Tuesday July 23 Yesterday and today we have been tossed about in Biscay's Bay. Yesterday will be a day never to be forgotten. Sickness prevailed throughout the ship more or less. There were several porpoises seen in the morning and a finner which we are informed is a species of Whale. Few people arose until afternoon. To add to our misery it rained all day. About two o'clock this morning they tacked the ship, when to what a scene, water cags, hockpots, beef tins, mugs, oatmeal, coffee, gurel, tea in fact almost everything on shelves tables and seats came tumbling down. Some on the births and some on the floor, bags, baskets, bonnets, coats, dresses and everything which was hung up and could stir wagged backwards and forwards to our amusement, notwithstanding we were so ill, but it was nevertheless dismal to contemplate the floor when we felt unable to stand or clean up. A little son of Mr Potters died this afternoon after a short life of a few hours.	**Tuesday July 23** Past a dreadful stormy night lights all out and a regular tempest everything flying about in all directions. Indeed a large piece of fat Pork came dish and all into the berths of one of the passengers the floor covered with ..... and all kinds of articals belonging to everybody children crying and people throwing up all round enough to frighten the few that were not seasick to death in the midst of the storm Mrs Potter brought forth a son Mr and Mrs Boast and Mr P ..... all that was in the birth sick no one else could be had the sailmaker had to lend a hand the child died in the morning a little more favourable in the evening saw lots of Porpoises a splendid night sickness gradually abating. Mrs Potter's child committed to the deep being in a box it floated and was seen some time Myself in bed all day.
	Wednesday July 24 A rainy morning but fine the rest of the day going very well Mrs Walker gave birth to a son the provisions very good for them that can eat but the water shocking past drinking raw and wasted in tea best in coffee. **Thursday July 25** Nothing particular but sick in bed.

Friday July 26 Some scores of porpoises were seen tonight sporting in the waters, some leapt several feet above the water. We have had two more births on board this week. We have had favourable winds lately.	**Friday July 26** Wet morning but turned out a fine day still in the Bay of Biscay at Break ..... abrest of Cape Finnistre [= Finisterre, Spain] at 4 pm abrest of ..... a fine afternoon lots of Porpoises to be seen in the evening they leaped completly out of the water and fell again into the sea with a splash.
	Saturday July 27 Fine morning wind light and ship rolling going pretty well a fine day and all improving in health.
	Sunday July 28 A beautiful morning ship still rolling rold all night tumbled peoples things about in all directions sent the cooks boilers to the side of the ship the morning prayers read by Messrs Ashton & Bell the sun very warm had the Flag that Braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze was stretched over the head of the preacher and along the deck and kept the sun of a many of the passengers assembled at divine service the Pulpit was the miner hatch with the booby hatch for a reading desk and the ship rolled about very bad in the afternoon evening service and betwixt times Services of all sorts all day the sun very hot a many of the birds called Stormy Petrels or by the Sailors Mother Careys Chickens where to be seen flying in our Wake.
	Monday July 29 Fine morning during the night Mrs Botterill added a boy to our number days short dark by 7 pm The phosphorescent light very beautiful a night it floats in the sea like balls of fire the mate says that they are very large masses of clear jelly this afternoon the petition taken down in the main hold all our end all grumbling about it.
Tuesday July 30	**Tuesday July 30**

Tonight we saw at a distance of about 40 miles the Island of Madira. Er sre making from 5 to 8 knots an hour.	A fine morning. Came in sight of Madeira at 6 pm got within 25 miles a most dreadful dark night the air very warm but Pleasant in the evening the Passengers in small groups all over the deck Some sat some standing and others laid all over the quarter deck very interesting sight so many human beings so variously imployed and all apparently happy & the features of none to be disstinguished unless you look closely to ..... from the fore end is heard the ..... and songs of the sailors & the young men in another part a few lovers of music where huming together some favourite & difficult pieces of sacred music from another part was heard the merry laughter and giggles of the young girls and from all parts the hum of numerous bands in deep conversation above all the washing of the sea against the vessels sides the generality of the people keep out till 9½ past or 10 o'clock and been dark so soon we have very long evenings.
	Wednesday July 31 Sun very hot all the passengers excepting 3 are now quite better of seasickness that is Mrs Claybourne Mrs Coulson and myself I have been very bad nearly all the time has yet We have now got into the trade-winds a brig in sight a beautiful night the planets very brilliant and all the stars bright the Great bear and the Polar star of .... descending Mother Careys chickens have now left us it is ..... them Some flying fish & dolphins also a whale have been seen by the sailors Water very bad cannot drink it raw like rotten eggs What a blessing would a drink of pure spring water be.
Thursday August 1 This morning we spoke a Bark which proved to be the Columbine an which laid	**Thursday August 1** Fine morning a large ship about 4 miles ahead another on the horison the Captain

beside us in the dock at Hull and left 3 weeks before us but went to hartlepool for a cargo which place she left on the ----- . She is bound for Bombay at 4 o'clock this afternoon. We spoke another Bark the name "Thomas Oarty", from Liverpool, they have been out 23 days and were bound for Rio in South America.	brought the two ships close together and found her to be the Columbines of Hull the vessel that laid along side of us in the docks a few flying fish seen another vessel that proved when we overtook her to be the Thomas Carty a barque of about 400 tons from Liverpool got lime juice for the first time very much required for the water is very bad the young ladies pitition taken down between them and us this afternoon abrest the Cannary Islands distance about 100 miles.
	Friday August 2 A fine morning and sailing nicely the fast vessels no where seen but another in sight ahead.
Saturday August 3 We overtook and spoke another ship this morning, the name Investigater from London and bound for Hongcong in China. She had been out three weeks and expected to be 20 weeks from the time of starting to the time she reached her destination.	**Saturday August 3** Spoke the ship it was the Investigator from London to China
Sunday August 4 We have had the church prayers read and while Mr Moss one of the passengers was preaching, a boat with the Captain and second mate with five sailors came from the ship we passed yesterday. We have only left her about 5 or 6 miles behind. They told us that they have on board their ship a milk cow and fresh baked bread every day. They have a Chinese lady with them. It is a very clean looking and beautiful ship but not so large as ours. Their object in visiting us they said was to procure tobacco and we felt sorry to see the Sabbath was thus desecrated and more so when we could not help thinking their visit was more out of curiosity than want of tobacco and we thought they	**Sunday August 4** A very fine morning no passengers took the sailor that had kindly offered his services gave up for some of the passengers do nothing but grumble without any ..... in as pretty ..... without a cook one of Rylands shipping tricks in sending the ship without one had church service and others has ..... the Captain and Second Mate came on board in a boat from the ship Investigator we where all nearly becalmed so it was quite a novelty to have ..... visitors at sea the Captain stayed dinner with our Captain and returned to his own vessel in the evening the first shark seen today I am now much better of my seasicknes but dreadfully thin and week it was Ben's watch to night so he had a tub

might have visited us without breaking the Sabbath.	that has been preparing for the perpose filled with sea water to bath in he enjoyed it very much. I quite envy him his good wash before coming to bed.
Monday August 5 We have lost sight of the Investigater. A great many large fishes have been seen today, we were told they are dog nosed fishes but some will maintain that they are young whales. Two sharks have also been seen last week supposed to measure in length about 9 feet. We have seen several flying fishes during the last week. This morning Mr Humble killed a small pig which was sold at 9d per Ib and as we had saved a great deal of saltmeat they exchanged some fresh for our salted. We had some roasted for dinner wich, with some especially preserved potatoes, we enjoyed very much, being the first fresh meat we have tasted since leaving Hull.	**Monday August 5** A splendid hot morning all the male youngsters bathing in a tub most of them enjoyed it much. Our man Welburn very ill something approaching the Cholera flying fish seen many people very poorly thought to be from the lime juice and warm weather. Welburn very bad to night I asked the Captain if he would have the tubs filled for us to bath and he with his usual kindness had it done and I had the first plunge but being a large tub Mrs Bentley of Hull joined me and after we had retired for the night 6 more of the females had a good wash I enjoyed it much
Tuesday August 6 This evening one of our passengers was suddenly called into eternity his name was Welburn, He was a member of the primitibe methodist connection [sic] and his end was peaceful and happy, may God help us who are left so to number our days that we may apply our hearts into wisdom and may this awful circumstance teach us that we also are mortal.	**Tuesday August 6** A cloudy morning very cool and pleasant we have passed every vessel we have seen since leaving Hull A pig killed this morning 6½ stones ..... a great many flying fish and Bottlenose seen today and a shark this evening just when we were going to tea Enoch Welburn died on the whole very suddenly and has the Dr knew that the cause of death was or would have been one of the worst kind of fevers orders were given to the Captain to make a shell for him directly the poor man was put into it just has he had died and a greater part of the bedding was thrown overboard and the funeral took place about ½ 7 Messrs Ashton and Bell reading the service it was awfully solemn a dark still night the stars shining but not brightly two lanterns abrest the coffin (which was upon a grating laid

	on a balance upon a rail amidships) cast a flickering and uncertain light upon the numerous faces thronged around the whole length of starboard side was crowded by people all laughing and the usual gaiety of the passengers was done away with for the suddeness of the stroke was to many overwhelming for a many had not heard of his illness when the minister read we commit his body to the deep and the deep heavy plunge of the coffin falling from a height of 10 or 12 feet into the wide Atlantic greated upon our ears it seemed to send a thrill of horror through the minds of all when we where all on deck the place below was well fumigated with Chloride of lime and hot vinegar [Cross-written:] Mrs Hessllope confined of a son.
Wednesday August 7 This day the heat intence almost unfufferable, we are exactly under the sun.	**Wednesday August 7** A cool pleasant morning but myself very poorly a many porpoises near the ship Saw a ship ahead a dreadful hot day the sun above us no shadow spoke the ship found her to be the Worcester barque Hull to Cape G. Hope and Bombay.
Thursday August 8 The heat is still oppressive.	**Thursday August 8** A fine morning the Worcester quite out of sight saw two more ships ahead very ill sighted one of the Cape birds.
Friday August 9 Towards evening we passed another ship the name Flilblane from Greenrock and bound for Bombay.	**Friday August 9** I past a most dreadful hot night nearly melted in bed and dreadfully week into the bargain never so thin and week in my life had a squall a dreadful heavy shower of rain that completely put down the wind and the sails flaped against the mast and from going 8½ knots we went 1½ found the ship to be from Grenock to Calcutta out 26 days. **Saturday August 10**

	Fine morning but a heavy squall which brought on a most tremendous torrent of rain never saw anything like after the rain heat intolerable. A man ill of the small pox in the afternoon a long and heavy shower of rain a great deal of water caught a little cooler after Cap throw a bottle over board this afternoon.
Sunday August 11 The church prayers were read by Mr Ashton, one of the passengers, in the morning after which Mr W. Stockhill preached. Mr Kemp preached in the afternoon and Mr Moss in the evening.	**Sunday August 11** A cloudy ..... November morning going pretty well orders to get letters ready in case we meet a homeward vessel church service at about 10 sighted a homeward bound ship but could not speak to her.
Monday August 12 The sea this morning is very rough and the rain heavy. Wrote a letter to be ready to send home should we meet with any homeward bound vessels. The motion of our ship is so violent that we find some difficulty in standing, walking, sitting or even laying in bed. The scene below is at once distressing and laughable. It is impossible to keep order all our household goods of whatever description falling frequently and suddenly from their proper places. On the floor whilst all liquids which happen to share this fate threaten almost to deluge any who may be in the way and render the floor impassable. One of the yardarms was broken in the morning. A shark was seen before dinner. In the afternoon a little infant was committed to the deep who died last night, there to remain till the greedy sea shall yield her dead.	**Monday August 12** Past a miserable night the rain began about 10 and poured in torrents until morning it rains a little now and the wind comes in squalls the rain comes in to our bed as well has a many more most of the night so we were up catching it and drinking all night. I have heard them talk of rain falling in pails full but it is the case in the tropics and the lightening is splendid wind high ship rolling the fore top sail yard broken at the strings the poor sailors nearly blown away with getting it down. Mr Walker's child buried this evening a shark seen before the funeral.
Tuesday August 13 The sea still continues rough and the motion of the vessel in the night I think more violent than ever, threatening almost to throw us out of bed. We are now	**Tuesday August 13** A tremendous? night everything rolling about the place in all directions. Some had treacle, some sugar, some meat, some ..... peas in fact all sorts of things

opposite Serie Leone but at a distance of 50 miles. A great quantity of beautiful gelly fishes were seen during the day. heir form appeared to somewhat resemble a fan, the colour lilac with pink edges. Mr Lofthouse endeavoured to catch some but has not yet succeeded. In the afternoon we saw a bottle nosed fish which I understand is a species of whale. It came very near the vessel and played about apparently fearing no evil. We thought it a very prithy being spotted something like a leopard. Our progress today is very slow not more than 2½ or 3 knots. They are obliged to tack as we are not going in the right direction owing to contrary winds.	into bed with them and other places. Everyone in a state of confusion. In bed ill all day. A great many transparent pink fish seen called Portugese Men of War. A many bottle noses seen and a many flying fish. Carpenter busy with the new yard. Very sick of the winds called the variables. Dark now by 6 pm. Plenty of fleas and bugs and a many get ..... that have not had them for years.
Wednesday August 14 Today we saw a ship behind us but as she did not overtake us we have not learnt the name. Mr Botterill caught one of the fishes which we supposed to be shell but when caught it was like nothing but a little iven(?) jelly although as beautiful when floating in the sea. We have only been going about 1½ , 2½ and 3 knots.	**Wednesday August 14** Fine morning sea much calmer. Two sails in sight 1 behind and one ahead. The weather much better but myself still very bad.
Thursday August 15 The ship we saw behind us yesterday has passed us during the night.	**Thursday August 15** Passed two vessels
	Friday August 16 English morning just like one of those miserable mornings in November in England. Cold, rainy, stormy & squally. A ship in sight passing him very fast. Mrs Wright confined Saturday of a daughter. Mr William Boast confined and child died. A son .....

Saturday August 17 Mrs W Boast confined of a still born child. A shark was seen.	**Saturday August 17** Fine morning. Still in the variables. Nothing to see but a stray flying fish now and then. **Sunday August 18** A fine clear morning wind unfavourable. Church service and other prayers & sermons as usual. **Monday August 19** A fine morning and nothing particular but I am still very poorly. **Tuesday August 20** A fine morning a calm sea breeze. It is impossible to describe or anyone to imagine the beautiful sunsets and the imediate aproach of darkness in the tropics. It is splendid indeed.
Wednesday August 21 A great deal of beef has been thrown overboard as it had turned bad probably on account of its being salted during the hot weather.	**Wednesday August 21** A fine morning. Much cooler than I ever expected ??ave cast no clothing yet but my flannel waistcoat and always did that in England. No fish caught yet a good many birds today about the sides of a larger hawk called by the sailors Boat ..... A cask of beef all bad and was thrown overboard.
Thursday August 22 Crossed the equator at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, just at the time Mrs Britain another of our passengers entered the world of spirits leaveing a husband and child 15 months old, to lament their loss the funeral service was performed by Mr Ashton, Mr Bell acting as clerk.	**Thursday August 22** A beautiful calm morning. The ship we saw yesterday a long way behind. Myself very bad in bed all day. Mrs Britton died at 4 pm. Just has the Capt said we crost the line I never was so low spirited. I was ill in bed and could see them with her till she died and then I saw them sew her up. A box was made and she was put in it by ½ past 5 and buried at 7. A calm still evening. Mr Britton is left with one child 15 months old not yet weaned. A very bad job for him poor man and it quite put a stop to all the fun that was preparing in consequence of crossing the line.

Friday August 23 This morning hundreds of fishes of various kinds principally bottlenosed porpoises were seen. This evening about 5 o'clock saw the sunset surrounded by the most brilliant clouds, this is a most beautiful but rare sight as the evenings have generally been cloudy and dull. Immediately after sunset the shades of evening begin to fall and in a few minutes one appartment is completely dark. We went on dock to see the moon rise which far exceeds anything of the kind we have seen in England as it emerges from behind the thick dark clouds tinging their edges with gold collar. The nights are so light that as to enable us to read without difficulty. The sea is unusually calm not a ripple is to be seen on the bosom of the mighty deep but our progress is very slow. About eight o'clock a splash was made in the water when Neptune and his retinue were supposed to emerge, we soon saw the comic procession, Neptune had his face blacked and streaked with white, another young sailor was dressed in woman's clothes and passed for his wife. The barber had on the remains of an old white apron and on his head a large comical cap and in one hand a forked stick, he was followed by the cook who to make his appearance more odd clumsily waddled with a greasy bucket on his arm, they all proceeded to the cabin to the amusement of all present, the captain after asking them several questions as to their success in fishing gave them some grog which was the object of their visit after which they all gracefully bowed and retired.	**Friday August 23** A fine clear morning but a very hot day. Ben's watch. A good many people getting out their boxes and finding a many things wet and spoiled. Myself to ill but if well should have no wish to be showing all my clothes on the poop like some Mrs Coulson for one and the only one that has an unnecessary exhibition and people wish to know if she is going to call a sale. Had to go to bed before the fun of the lines crossing came on but had not been up for days before so could not stay out late but we had the best part below for there was a little more water than was agreable to all going about the decks and the sailors Neptune and his crew came and paid us a visit between decks. Brought their fiddles, forks & hooks drest in a most laughable manner & danced very well some of the most popular dances. I think they where at it most of the night in one place or another. One or two of the young ladies and some of the gents where dancing on the poop so the sea faring crew joined them and they had a good bit of sport.

	Saturday August 24 A calm clear morning. The quarter boats where lowered for a race manned by some of the young men for a wager of ½ doz of sherry. The winning boat crew Cowham, Bottrill, Allison, Pritchard, Young, Brown, Shears man; the other crew Bell, Brambles, Brough, Laburn, ST man Ashtons. **Sunday August 25** A fine morning. Strong breeze. Saw some whales. Church service as usual. Was taken very poorly and had to go to bed before the preaching. A most splendid night but could not get up to enjoy it. Everyone talking about the sunset and moon rising. For all I was ill I injoyed my dinner today for having got some new potatoes we had a ham & bacon pie. If I had been well I should almost have ..... myself. It is the first dinner I have had to call a dinner
Monday August 26 Sharks have been seen following the ship for some days, most likely on account of the great quantity of meat which has been thrown away. Yesterday some whales were seen. This morning several shoals of flying fishes were passed us, they very much resemble flocks of white pigeons but smaller. For this last day or two we have favourable winds, what they called South East Trades. We make from 7 to 9 knots an hour.	**Monday August 26** A fine morning. Great numbers of flying fish. The[y] leap out of the water by hundreds. A dolphin seen. A very rough night but moon & stars bright.

Tuesday August 27
A rough morning myself very poorly. Nothing particular today.

Wednesday August 28
A fine morning but squally. A vessel seen homeward bound. No dinner today for after breakfast the boilers began to leak. They were obliged to put the fire out and the gents in our mess got some of the sailors peas soup and after they got the fire lit again we had some grewel made.

Thursday August 29
A very fine clear morning, day and brilliant night.

Friday August 30
A fine morning but wild in appearance. Little Tom Kirk very poorly. Myself better but very weak. Undertook to put him a mustard plaster on but not very well qualified to compete with a strong 7 year old lad but got on pretty middling considering.

Saturday August 31
A fine morning. Strong wind and heavy seas. Rather poorly with the pitching. Motion of the ship cannot get better.

Sunday September 1
A cold wet stormy morning. Sudden squall. A ship behind rather gaining on us. A regular squally day. The morning service gone through but no other. A fine evening the most beautiful sun set came on cold and stormy again after.

Monday September 2
A squally morning but the sea not so rough. The night particularly fine.

Tuesday September 3
A fine clear morning after late bad weather. A party went out in a boat and pulled the round ship.

	Wednesday September 4 A very fine morning crost the tropic of Capricorn. Had a boat race again this afternoon a pretty good race the starboard side beating considerably I think it is the lucky side. **Thursday September 5** A fine warm morning. Ship scarcely moving.
Friday September 6 An albatross was seen this morning. The weather is much colder as it is now winter in these latitudes.	**Friday September 6** A calm morning with air pleasant another boat race quite a fashionable amusement the same side won again. A woman lost a yard & ¼ of fruit & a sovereign in the afternoon a search was made through the ship in all the beds and boxes inside. A man of the name Braithwaite refused to have his done so the Capt came down and the man said all ..... to him but at last he was forst to comply after a great deal of nonsense but the missing articles where nowhere to be found and a many greatly dispute that they where ever lost for she is such a bad character. The Capt was the most patient man with them I ever saw but he is one of the nicest men I ever so for his place. I am very much surprised at the coppaning on board for Mr Boast professed to be so particular about the choice of character and reputation of the passengers and they are a choice collection indeed some of them. **Saturday September 7** A fine morning. A whale seen this morning & a wandering albatross during the day. **Sunday September 8** A fine morning. A brig in sight before us and has we got up with him found it to be the one that past us last Sunday. Church service as usual. Another vessel seen

behind us. Wind very strong hardly possible to walk on the decks.

Monday September 9
Spoke the ship behind by signals. She proved to be one from London to Calcutta one of Greens 1450 tons. She ..... more free than we did. Very rough impossible to go on deck. Cannot keep our feet below. The spray and waves coming over the decks and half drowning some of the men on deck and poured down the hatches amongst us below and almost swam us out.

Tuesday September 10
A rough morning. Impossible for the men to get along the deck without hold and women cannot go at all in our wake they say are flying Albatrosses, Cape ..... & pigeons the latter very pretty. Flying fish left us long ago. No fish of any description seen lately. A storm with rain and sea washing over the decks and down the hatches. Ben's morning watch and the ship pitching things about in all directions. Some had sugar, treacle, tea, coffee, rasins peas, rice, oatmeal, meat and various other articals into peoples beds the wet had come into some of the beds and their was one man laid in with his bed on the flour and a paistboard came down on him. Ben was sat on the seat, the ship gave a roll and shot him off on the wet floor. It was impossible for anyone to sit without hold so after that he sat in the bed .....

Wednesday September 11
A pleasant morning but sea high. Ship rolling very much. I find myself much better below. Think sea air does not agree with me. Rough & squally.

Thursday September 12

	The ship rolled about very much all night but a fine healthy morning. Some of the passengers trying to catch pigeons or albatrosses with a line but the ship going to fast.
Friday September 13 The weather is extremely cold, we have had some showers of sleet. Albatross and other birds called Cape pigeons and Cape hens in great numbers. The Cape pigeon is a very pretty bird, the breast is white as snow, the head, back and wings are dark brown spotted with white, they fly at the rate of 50 miles an hour.	**Friday September 13** A fine but cold morning. An English Jany morning a clear frost during the night. A great contrast from a week or two ago. Squall very ..... about hear but shout [?] very cold.
Saturday September 14 The wind is very high and piercing but favourable. We have been sailing from 9 to 10 knots for some days, the ship again pitches and rolls with all her might frequently throwing us off our feet and from our seats and placing us with our mugs, jugs and what not in the most ludicrous positions. We find it rather difficult at all times to keep our patience, but having got all things put to rights we soon join the hearty laugh of our more fortunate companions of one the passengers was holding a bowl of flour which she was about to make up when a moment she was thrown backwards on the floor followed by the contents of her bowl to the no small amusement of all witnesses.	**Saturday September 14** A cold, raw , squally morning. Ship rolling very much. Birds increase in numbers. Sea continually coming over the sides on the decks. When they altered one of the sails this evening the wind and sea where high at the time and the ship gave such a most tremendous roll that every one and every thing out of it place in a minute. I had just got into bed but had not quite got undressed it nearly sent me over sent a preserved mutton pie of Mrs Boast's under our seat, a can with some water, a slop pail with a little in it, Mrs H. B's babys chair with a ..... in it and the pie where all mixed up with Mrs Coulson's clothes that had not been properly secured. We in our mess have had has few accidents as anyone, the fewest upsets and the fewest breakages a many of the messes are from want of care.

Sunday September 15 Fair wind, the sea very rough and roared tremendously towards evening. The wind rose to nearly a gale, the royals were taken in and the lower sails closely reefed encountered several heavy squals the sea constantly running over the main deck and splashing over the forecastle. We have lately seen another kind of bird called whale birds, which are said to feed on dead whales. They are beautiful little creatures, slate coloured and white. Got out of the Western and entered the Eastern hemisphere.	**Sunday September 15** A fine cold morning. The day came on very squally and continued so during the day we had a shower of hail I stayed below all day they began service in the morning but it was broken up by a squall. Could not have the service below on account of invalids. A many whale birds this last few days. **Monday September 16** A fine morning. A squall last night with thunder & lightning but fine today. Warm in the sun. **Tuesday September 17** A fine morning warm during the day. A many birds round us again had a sad rolling night a good many of the young men shooting for a wager at a bottle. People begin to talk hard about landing and are packing, but I am certainly very comfortable on the subject myself.
Wednesday September 18 The weather has for this last week been stormy and unsettled but now it is much milder and warmer. There is a bark on our starboard bow but at too great a distance to be spoken. Expecting to be off the Cape tomorrow if the wind continues.	**Wednesday September 18** A dull day. Sea quite gone down. A ship in sight. Another shooting match at target this evening a breeze.
Thursday September 19 We are now off the Cape at a distance of 100 miles, the weather is remarkably fine for the season as this is the worst month in the year in this part. The chief mate has been 16 and the sailmaker 20 voyages and both say they never knew it so fine so near the Cape. They are preparing the boats and getting out the chain cables. We past the mast of a vessel, we are about 900 miles from Port Natal.	**Thursday September 19** The Cape between 120 & 130 miles distant. **Friday September 20** A fine morning. The Capt wishes to make land at Algoa Bay ..... coast of Natal.

Saturday September 21 We are off Table Bay almost 80 miles, the morning was very fine but towards evening wind got up and blew quite a gale.	**Saturday September 21** A splendid morning. The sea began to get up and we had some of the heaviest rolls yet experienced. The sea came over and wet near all on deck. They say we are 520 miles from Port Natal.
Sunday September 22 The wind blew so hard we were obliged to boat the ship as we were in danger of being driven too near land. At 4 o'clock saw land which was Algoa Bay about 80 miles distant.	**Sunday September 22** A wild morning. Mrs Clayburn getting better but Mrs Coulson & Mrs Harper very ill. The cold again very severe they say their is land to be seen ahead it is Algoa Bay but I have not gone up for some that have been can see nothing. At night a regular storm. The jib sheer blown to ribbons the Capt gave orders to stand from land directly. Their is nothing like plenty of sea room in a storm. No one seamed to care anything about it but felt quite secure with a good ship under us. I have not heard of any one being at all affraid but a nervous woman or two and their must be of that sort to be of all sorts.
Monday September 23 Wind has been stronger last night and this morning than ever we have know it, the sails were taken down with the exception of two and with those we sailed 11 and 12 miles an hour but the violent pitching of the vessel caused most of us to be affected with sickness. A few of us ventured on deck towards evening when things were a little more settled.	**Monday September 23** Little cooking on. I got up at 6 and had a very hard bout to get some cakes made the ship knocking about so but at last succeeded. Ben took them to the cook house but it was most dreadfully storming. Got them baked and then the storm came on most furious nearly all of us women got into the bed places and sat for it shot us of the seat into the flour and that was none so clean for the water came down the hatches and mixed with the dirt and made a mud of it. The gents cooked all and washed all up and did all the work for it rained and was very wet. **Tuesday September 24** The sea much gone down. Everyone telling us when they come to bed about the splendour of the moon rising.

	Wednesday September 25 A fine morning little wind. Yesterday afternoon some of them caught a Cape Pigeon, tied a paper round its neck with the name of the ship on it and let it fly. Noon no wind. **Thursday September 26** A fine morning. A large ship past for the Cape. About 75 miles further of than we where yesterday at noon. Very tired of being so near and cannot get their. **Friday September 27** A very fine morning but quite calm. The sun quite hot and the day like one in the tropics. A boat went out with a shooting party shot a small albatross, some whale birds and Cape Pigeons. At night the wind got up in a wrong direction.
Saturday September 28 The sea is so clam that some of the young men have been out in a boat on a shooting excursion. They brought with them an albatross, a cape hen and cape pigeon, a whale bird and others. They have often caught birds by attaching a bait to a fish hook, the hook being fastened to a line. Our progress this week has been very slow owing to calms and contrary winds.	**Saturday September 28** A fine morning but making little progress. We are yet 345 miles from Natal. Our watch tonight. Nothing to write about. Mrs Harper & Mrs Welburn very poorly. **Sunday September 29** A dull cloudy morning. Again going out to sea. Went to church and stayed the sermon. Invalids no better. **Monday September 30** A fine, clear morning but comes on very damp and uncomfortable early on in the evening and causes a great deal of illness, a kind of diorhea. A many very poorly. **Tuesday October 1** A thick misty morning. 12 weeks today since I came on board the ship and have not been off since. It is as (though?) as long has I said I should be satisfied to stay but I had still make myself content. Some of the passengers caught a Cape Hen or

	Sea Raven with a fish hook and behaved in a most shameful manner to it. **Wednesday October 2** A fine day and making a little better way. Very poorly all day.
Thursday October 3 This evening while they were altering the sails a sudden and very heavy squall coming on the wheel by which the ship is steered was taken out of the man's hand which might have been of very serious consequence but fortunately the man escaped unhurt. The swindle of the wheel was very much bent but nothing broken.	**Thursday October 3** A fine morning. Going nicely. Everyone expecting to see land in the day. Very poorly myself, wish I was landed. Caught a Cape Hen this afternoon very tame would eat anything.
Friday October 4 The ship carpenter and an emigrant who is a blacksmith with the assistance of some of the sailors repaired the wheel. They filled a tub, with coals upon which they made a fire, keeping that part of the deck wet to prevent any accident from fire. There is scarcely any wind, the ship not sailing more than ½ a knot to 1 an hour.	**Friday October 4** Dull morning and no land yet. A great deal of talk about Natal hoping soon to see some sight of it.
Saturday October 5 Last night the wind rose and being fair for us we have sailed briskly for the last 12 hours. The face of almost every passenger now wears a smile as we expect soon to reach our destined port.	**Saturday October 5** A fine morning. Land said to be near and us all making slight preparations in the shape of packing articals. Going to bed in hope of seeing land in the morning.
Sunday October 6 Sighted land this morning at day bread and in a few hours we were so near as to distinctly see the shore of what we supposed to be Natal but as we were not far enough and the Captain being acquainted with the coast we put out to sea again. About 6 o'clock pm the wind rose and Mr R Smith was obliged to close the religious service at the conclusion of the second hymn. The rain began to fall and we had a dreadful, thunder storm.	**Sunday October 6** A fine morning. Heard their was land to see. Got up had a good wash all over on the strength of leaving all the dirt I could behind and ..... and came out to see land a beautiful prospect but not the wright place and had to round ? ship and put out to sea again. Church service as usual. A white squall at night and the most splendid lightning I ever saw near the

The forked lightning was awfully grand shooting up the heavens in yellow streams. At other times the sky apeared on fire, the thunder roared and cracked tremendously but we had not much rain. Before bedtime the storm abated, for this we felt thankful to that God whom winds and seas obey.	coast all night and came in sight of land on the .....
Monday October 7 Soon this morning we were told that land was visible. About 7 o'clock we looked through our windows and again beheld the green mountains. We were soon on deck and discovered what the Captain thought would be the bluff which forms the one side of the bay of Natal. This proved to be as expected for when we were a little nearer we saw by the aid of a telescope the light house and flag staff on the top of which we soon saw waving in the breeze the colours which meant what ship is that and wither bound, we answered the "Haidee" from Hull, others were then hoisted signifying they had sent to report us at D'Urban. We sailed delightfully until opposite the bay and then dropt anchor at ½ past 10 o'clock am. The harbour master came on board bringing with him a letter from Mr Lund to Mr Boast, Smith and others. Messrs Tutin and Lund are in the neighbourhood and in good health. Two surf boats were sent from the port to land the passengers as the ship is much too large to cross the bar. They were filled with goods and passengers and proceeded to the landing place which is about 3 miles distant.	**Monday October 7** A ..... Up at 6 to see Natal. A very romantic seeing. Went along the coast till ½ past 10 am then cast anchor. The custom house officers came on board. About an hour after a letter from Mr Lund to say we could not take more than a ??s of gun powder and that the Minerva that left Plymouth
Tuesday October 8 Left the ship Haidee at 12 o'clock after living on board 5 months and 4 days. We have made a good passage for the season. We have been 12 weeks and 1 day while others have been 17 weeks and sailed	

from London. We had rather a tedious sail in the boats the wind being against us. It rained nearly all way which made it very unpleasant as we were rather crowded. We were about 70 passengers in number with a great deal of luggage and beds. We saw a kaffir on the beach carrying a plank, part of a wreck we supposed, as the emigrant ships "Minerva" and "Brittish Tar" have been wrecked lately on this dangerous coast. We reached the landing place about 5 pm. We sheltered under the verandah belonging to the custom house until the rain abated and then walked to D'Urban, there not being room in the waggon and cart which were all the conveyances there. (The kaffirs not liking to work in the wet crossed out.) The walk through the bush was most delightful to us, it is so long since we enjoyed the priviledge, the road was very sandy, we often sank up to the ankles in it. We met with some of our friends and being very wet and uncomfortable put up at the Trafalgar Inn. There was some fires in the back kitchen where we partly dried our wet garments. Got our tea in a room which should consider in England a decent stable, but the floor was matted and we had seats and a table and what was but an excellent tea to which we did ample justice being so long confined to salt provisions, how thankful we feel to that God who holds the wind in the hollow of his hand for preserving us so long on the mighty deep and permitting us once more to tread upon the solid ground.

Wednesday October 9

Went down to the beach to watch the boats come in, the second was brother George safe and well. He went to see the wreck of the Brittish Tar, the ropes and

sails of which is to be sold in lots for auction. We rode in a waggon to the town and such a jostling shaking ride I never remembered having before but for my own part I quite enjoyed it. The kaffir boy who drove us ran and danced by the side of the wagon crying "here's your sorts" evidently proud of knowing a little English. On the road he managed to pass a white boy who was driving a cart, he was delighted with his success and frequently turning round and shouting triumphantly "me good quick, me good quick".

Thursday October 10

They have been erecting one tent, Sister and I have had a walk in the bush which in many places resembles a gentleman's shrubbery, but there are not many flowers nor yet fruit as it is the beginning of Spring here. Captain Hopkinson has engaged a buggy to convey the luggage on shore, which will cost Mr Rylands about £200.

Saturday October 12

The brig has got into the bay with part of the goods and will begin to unload on Monday. Most of the tradesmen who came out with us have got work and good wages but provisions are generally dear.

Wednesday October 23

Today there has been a wedding at the church. I think the bridegroom is an officer in the army. There were carriages with four bullocks and a wagon pulled by 14 oxen, they were escourted by men on horseback who all dismounted when the carriages stopped. The ladies were nearly all in white, the gentlemen principally in regimentals. There was a very large party of them. They had to us who had lately come a very odd appearance, so different to the English mode of teaching.

Friday November 8

[Something is missing here.] … to go further than Maritzburg. **Saturday November 30** Mrs Comins, Sew, Miss Comins, Mr R and wife and child, Mr Fox and Joseph have left Durban. The Dutch farm is now bought and they are going to lay out a township in or near which we intent to live. The name of the town is to be York as we are all with one or two exceptions from Yorkshire. **Wednesday December 11** The Pallas from Hull has arrived with 18 passengers, this is the ship which Mr Boast first chartered but it was not passed by the inspectors, it being too small for such a great number of us.	

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Lofthouse Diary – A Copy of the Original Document

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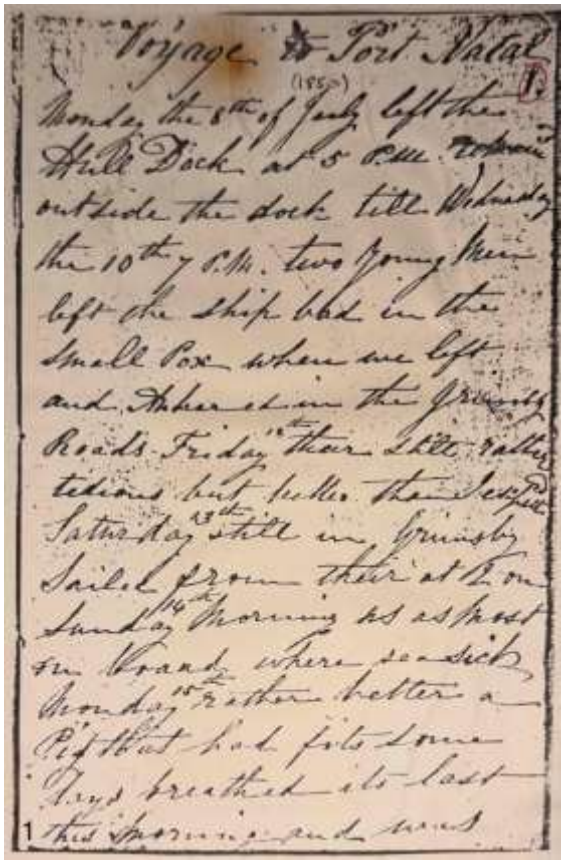
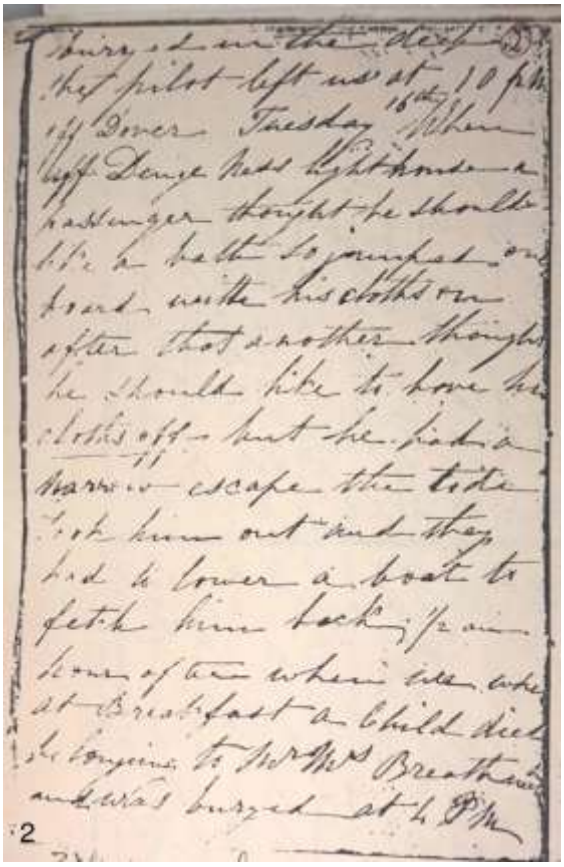
This is a copy of Martha Lofthose's original, handwritten diary. Stuart Heslop sent me these copies March 2026.



Voyage to Port Natal (1857)

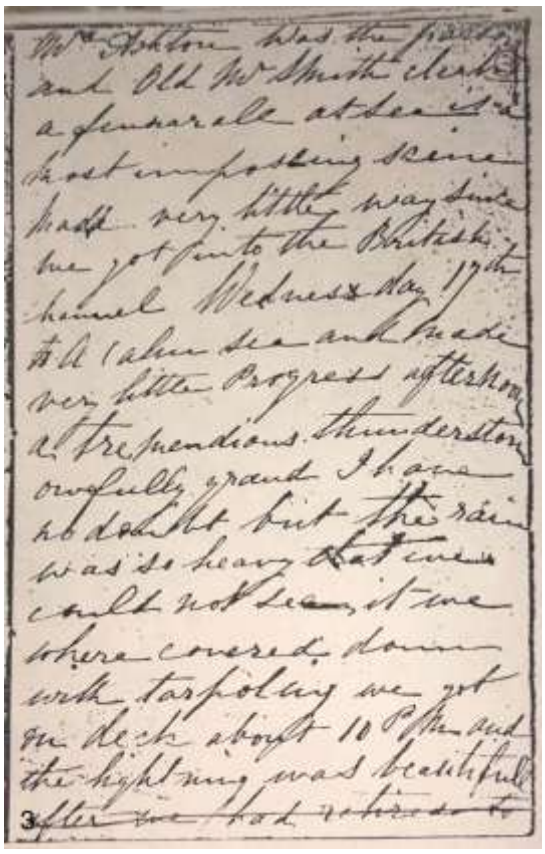
Monday the 8th of June left the Hull Dock at 8 o'clock outside the dock till Wednesday the 10th 7 o'clk. two young men left the ship bad in the Small Pox when we left and then at the Grimsby Roads Friday 12th that little while tedious but broke then Sept Saturday 13th still in Grimsby Sailed from there at 2 o'clock Sunday 14th morning as at most fine Board where so sick Monday 15th rather better a Pilot boat had pilot some Boys breathed its last this morning and were

1



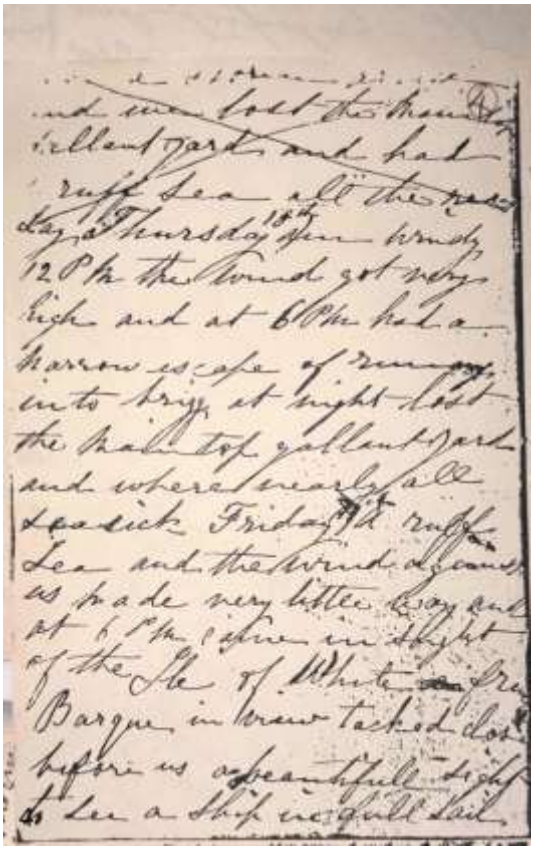
Tuesday 16th the last pilot left us at 10 o'clk off Dover Tuesday 16th when off Dunge Head Lighthouse a passenger thought he should like a bath so jumped out board with his clothes on after that another thought he should like to have his clothes off but he had a narrow escape the tide took him out and they had to lower a boat to fetch him back 2 or 3 hours after when ill at Breakfast a Child died belonging to Mr Mrs Breathwaite and was buried at 4 P.M.

2



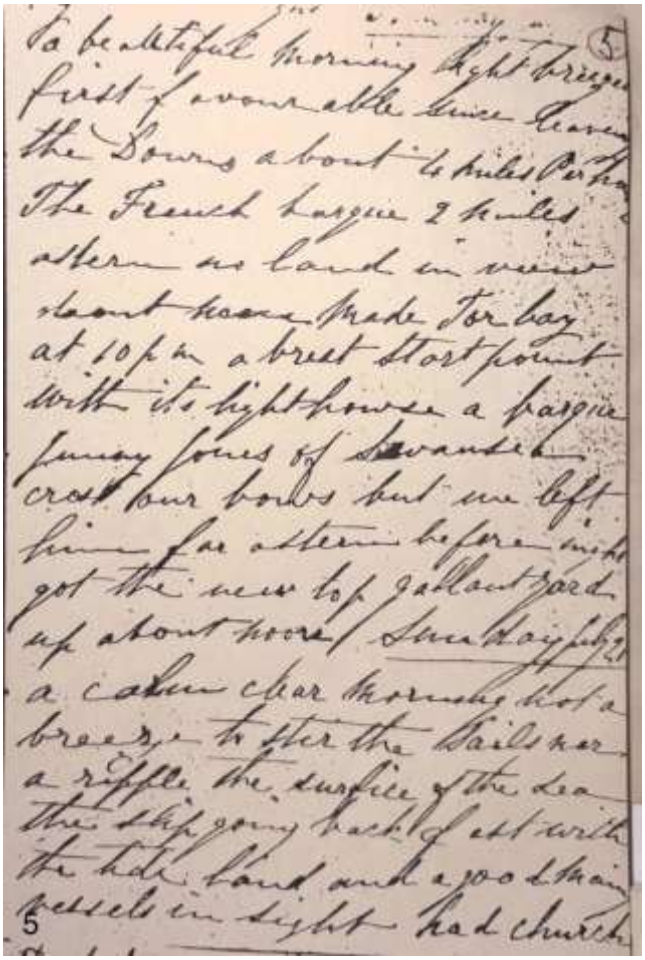
Mrs Ashton was the first and Old Mr Smith clerk a funeral at sea it's most imposing scene made very little way since we got into the Channel Wednesday 17th & 18th calm sea and made very little Progress afternoon a tremendious thunderstorm awfully grand I have no doubt but the rain was so heavy that we could not see it one where covered down with tarpoling we got on deck about 10 P.M. and the lightning was beautiful after we had returned to

3



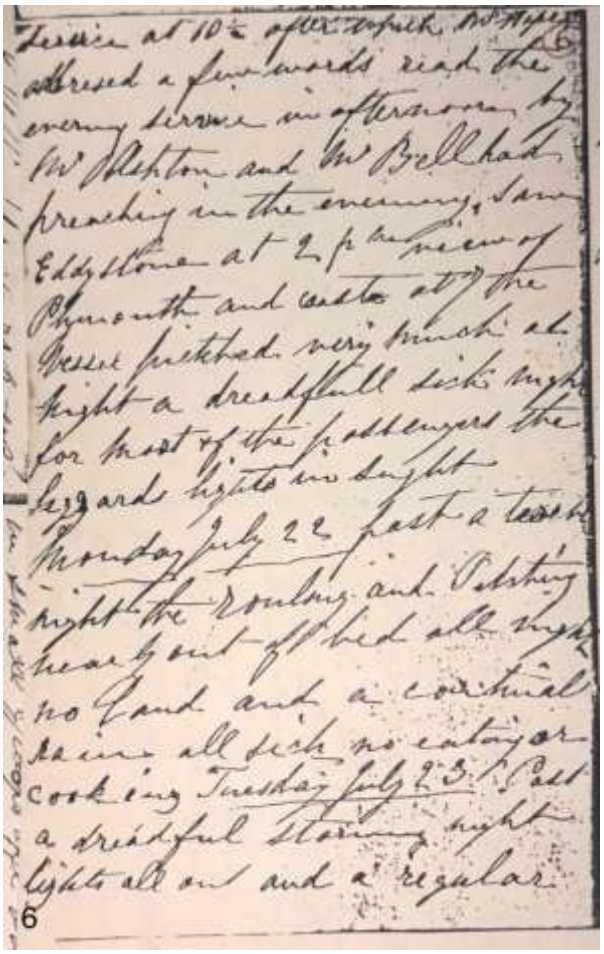
and we lost the Mizzen Top Gallant Yard and had rough sea all the next day Thursday 18th from 12 P.M. the Wind got very high and at 6 P.M. had a narrow escape of running into brig at night lost the Main top gallant yard and where nearly all Seasick Friday 19th rough Sea and the Wind dreadful made very little way and at 6 P.M. saw in sight of the Isle of Wight a Barque in Convoy tacked close before us a beautiful sight to see a ship in full sail

4



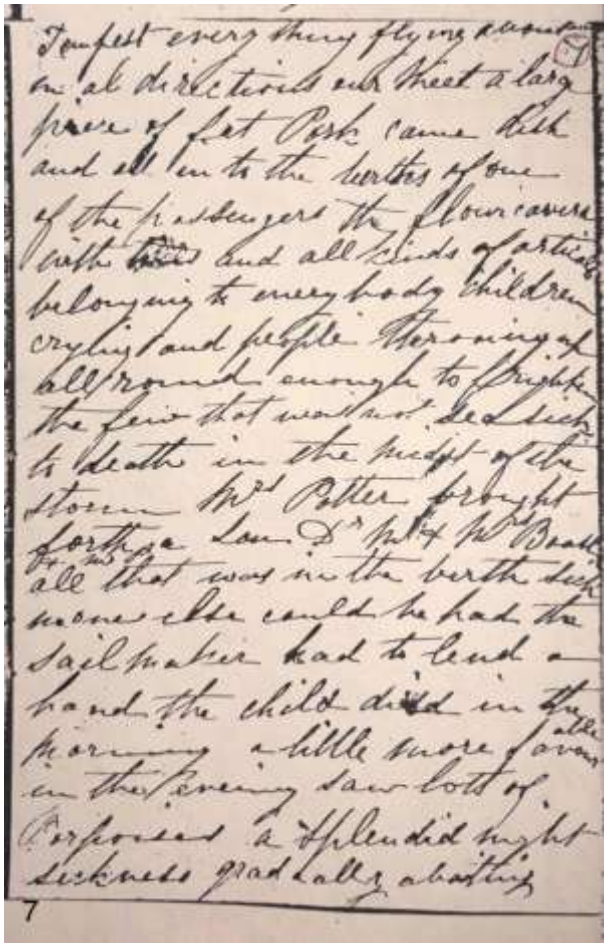
5

So beautiful morning light breeze
first favourable since leave
the Downs about 6 miles Portsa
The French League 2 miles
astern no land in view
about noon made for bay
at 10 p.m. abreast Start point
with its light house a pagoda
many lines of Swansea
coast our bonds but we left
him far astern before night
got the new top gallant yard
up about noon / Sunday July 21
a calm clear morning but a
breeze to fill the sails near
a ripple the surface of the sea
the ship going back of est with
the tide land and a good many
vessels in sight had church



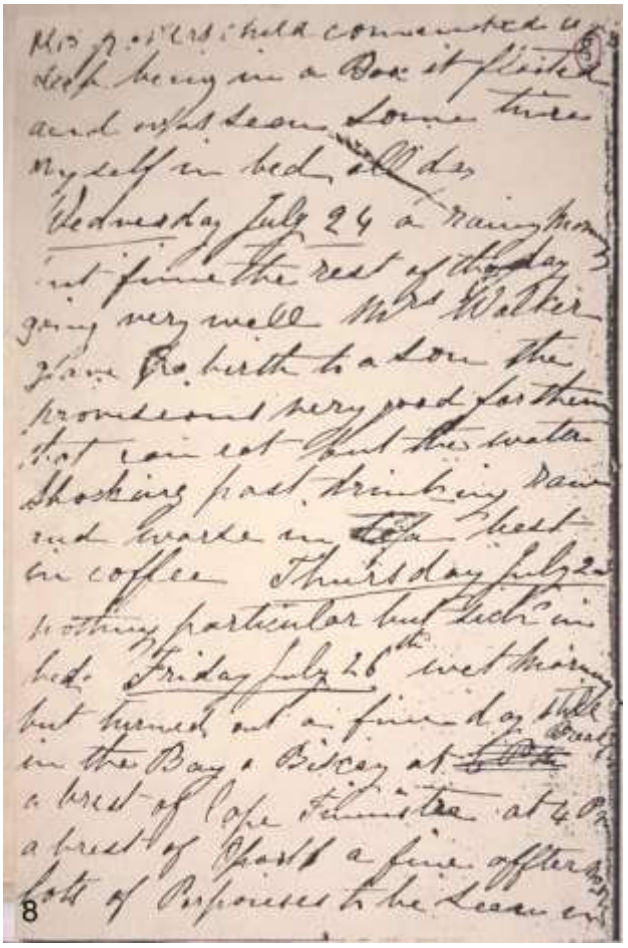
6

Service at 10½ after which Mr Hyde
addressed a few words read the
evening service in afternoon by
Mr Skelton and Mr Bell had
preaching in the evening saw
Eddystone at 2 p.m. pleasing view of
Plymouth and castle all the
Vessel pitched very much all
night a dreadfull sick night
for most of the passengers the
Sea and lights in sight
Monday July 22 fast a tedious
night the rowling and pitching
night the rowling and pitching
night the rowling and pitching
no land and a continual
sea sick all sick no eating or
cooking Tuesday July 23 Fast
a dreadful stormy night
lights all out and a regular



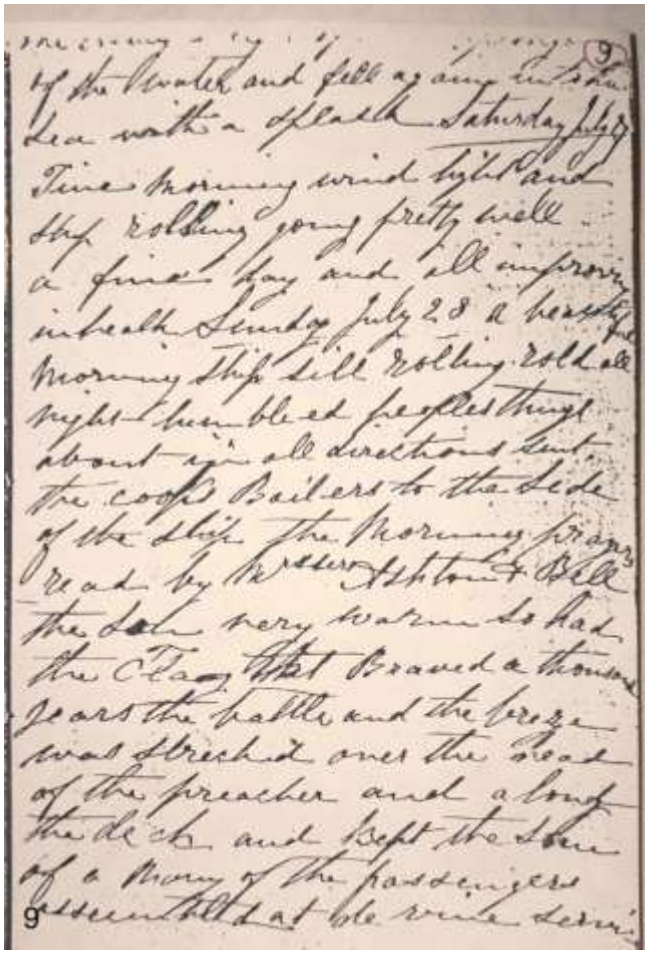
7

Confusion every thing flying about
in all directions and sweet a large
piece of fat Pork came sick
and all run to the berths of one
of the passengers the flour covered
with bugs and all kinds of articles
belonging to every body children
crying and people throwing up
all round enough to frighten
the few that were not sea sick
to death in the midst of the
storm Mrs Potter brought
forth a Son Mr Pitt & Mr Brad
all that was in the berth sick
none else could be had the
sail maker had to lend a
hand the child died in the
morning a little more calm
in the evening saw lots of
Porpoises a splendid night
sickness good calls abating



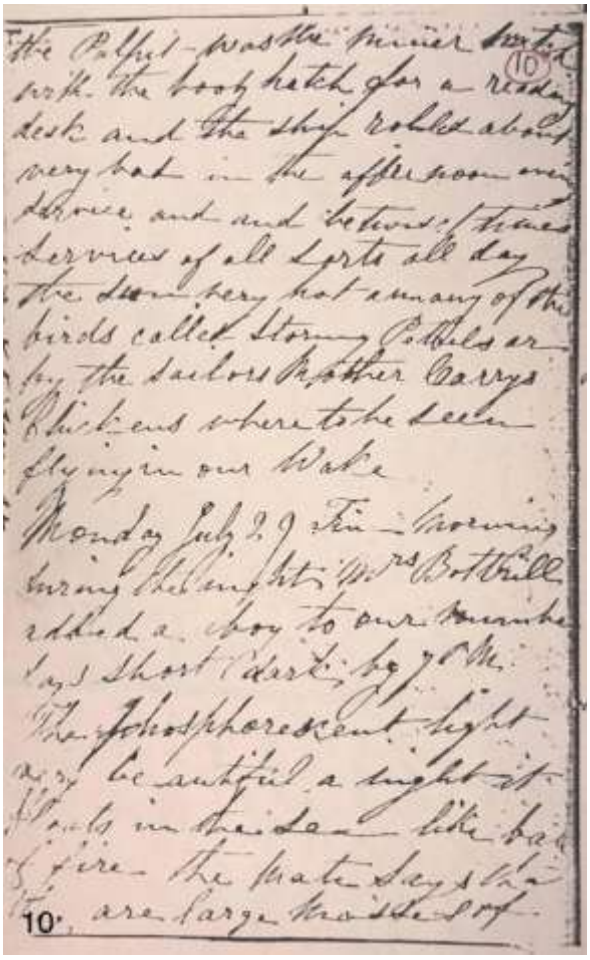
8

Mrs Powers child committed to
deep being in a Box it floated
and was seen some time
my self in bed all day
Wednesday July 24 a rainy morn
ing fine the rest of the day
going very well Mrs Walker
gave birth to a Son the
provisions very good for them
that can eat but the water
shocking past drinking Saw
and awoke in the East
on coffee Thursday July 25
nothing particular but sick in
bed Friday July 26th wet morning
but turned out a fine day saw
in the Bay of Biscay at
a brace of Cape Finisterre at 4 P.M.
a brace of Spain a fine offering
lots of Porpoises to the Leeward



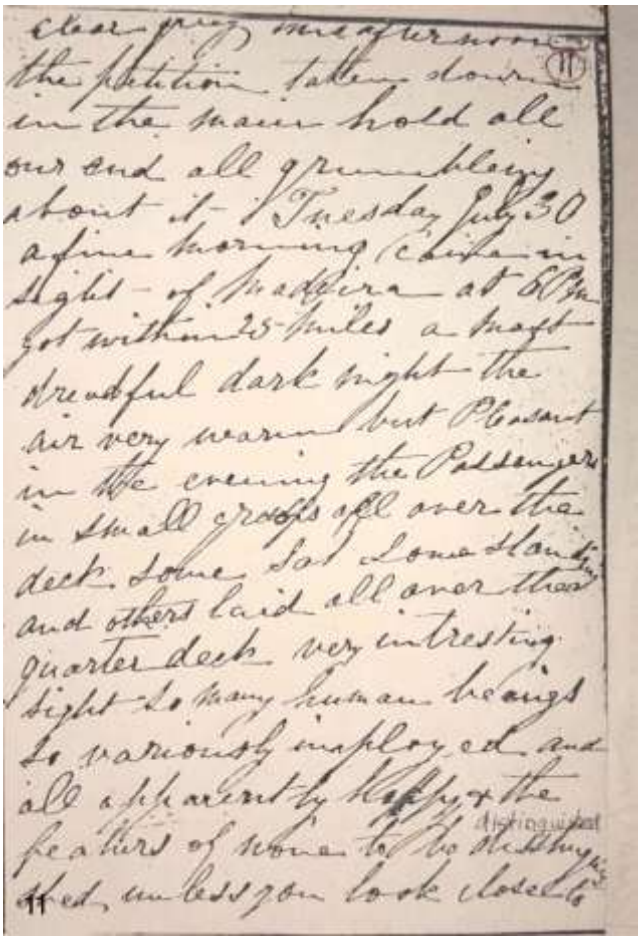
of the Water and fell a[illegible] in[illegible]
Lea with a Sprinkle Saturday July
Time morning wind light and
ship rolling going pretty well
a fine day and all improving
in health Sunday July 28 a heavy
morning Ship still rolling rolled
night terrible people things
about in all directions sent
the cook Bailers to the side
of the ship The morning prayers
read by Messrs Ashton & Bell
the sea very warm so had
the Clean that Braved a thousand
years the bottle and the brace
was stretched over the head
of the preacher and about
the decks and kept the sons
of a many of the passengers
assembled at the rails seeing

9



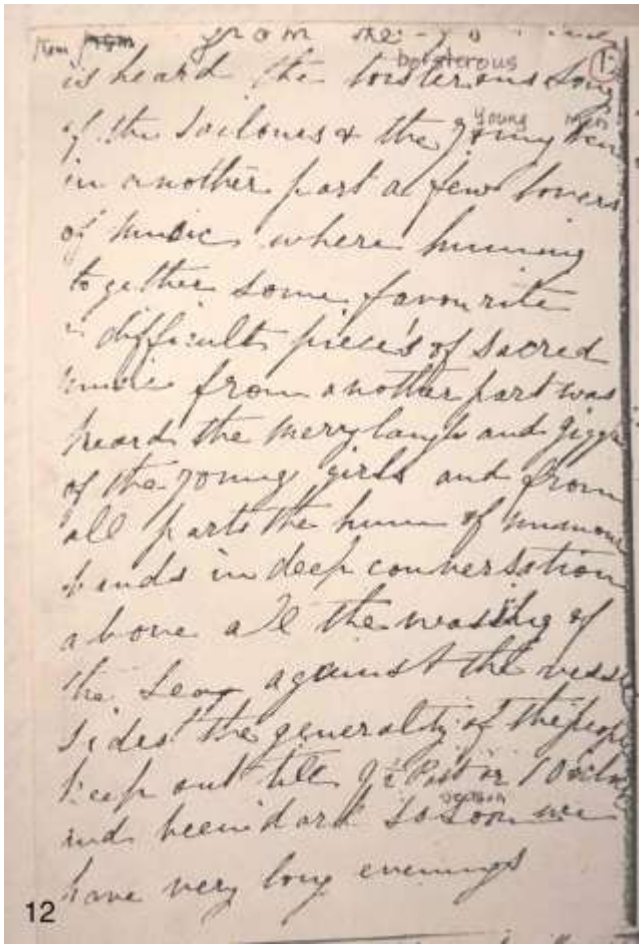
the Pulpit - was the minister took
work the book hatch for a reading
desk and the ship rolled about
very bad in the afternoon min
showers and and between times
services of all sorts all day
the sun very hot - many of the
birds called Storm Petrels or
by the sailors Mother Carrys
Chickens where to the sea
flying in our Wake
Monday July 29 Fine - morning
during the night Mrs Bottrill
added a boy to our number
days short & dark by 7 oclock
The phosphorescent light
may be beautiful a sight it
Sparks in the sea like balls
of fire - the water seems thick
& are large round the ship

10



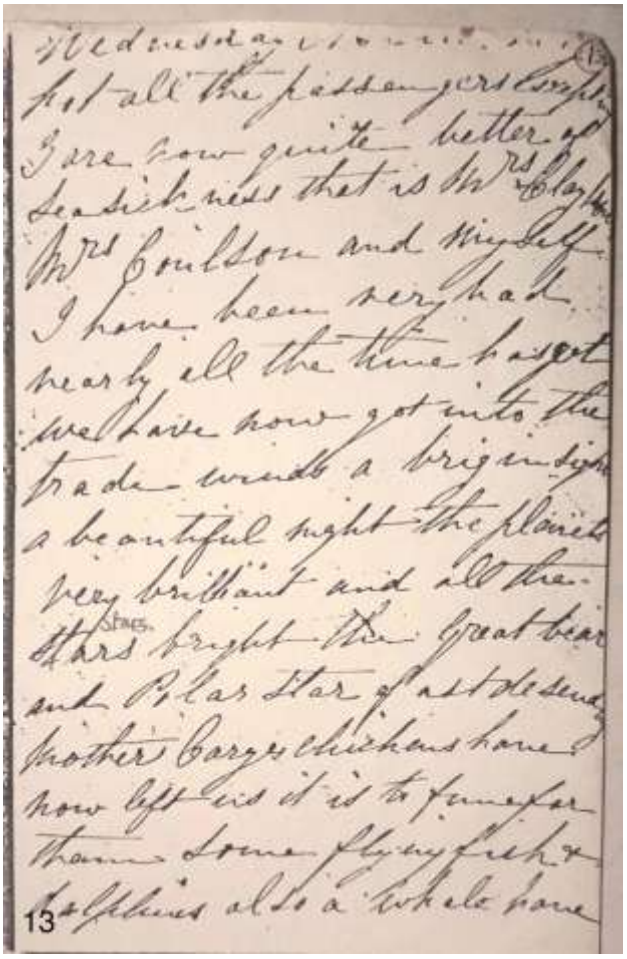
clear grey mist after noon
the petition taken down
in the main hold all
over and all grumbling
about it - Tuesday July 30
a fine morning (Christmas
light - of Madeira at 6 Oclock
got within 25 miles a most
dreadful dark night the
air very warm but Pleasant
in the evening the Passengers
in small groups all over the
deck some Sat some standing
and others laid all over the
quarter deck very intresting
sight - so many human beings
so variously employed and
all adjacent by Lights & the
feathers of some to be disturbed
ed, unless you look closely

11

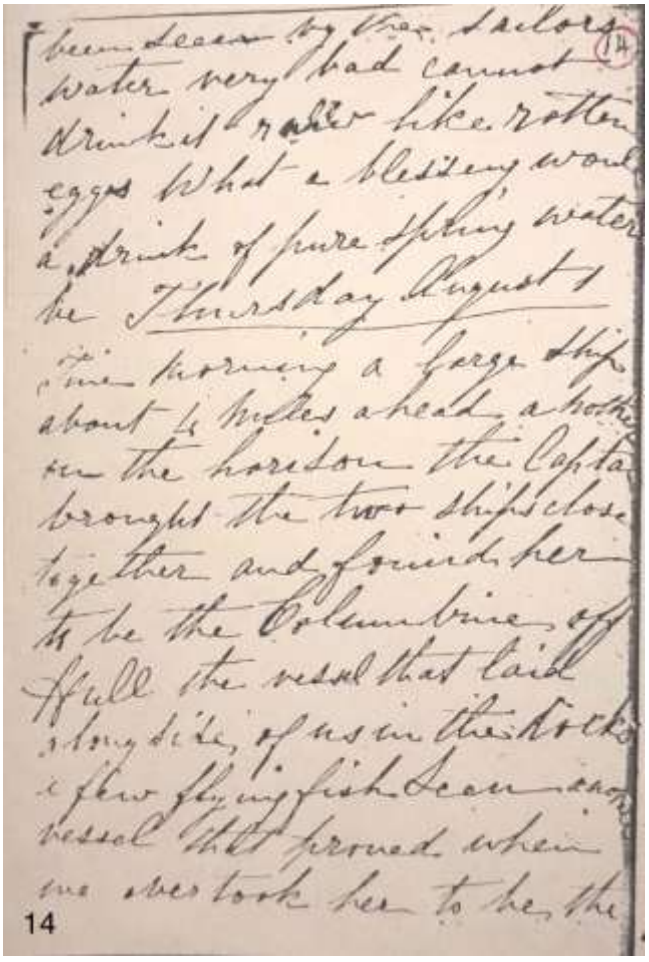


from Sea - 7 o
is heard the boisterous
of the Sailors & the young men
in another part a few lovers
of music where humming
together some favorite
& difficult pieces of sacred
music from another part was
heard the merry laugh and giggle
of the young girls and from
all parts the hum of human
sounds in deep conversation
above all the washing of
the sea against the vessel
Besides the generality of the people
keep out till 9 Oclock or 10 oclock
and been dark so soon as
have very long evenings

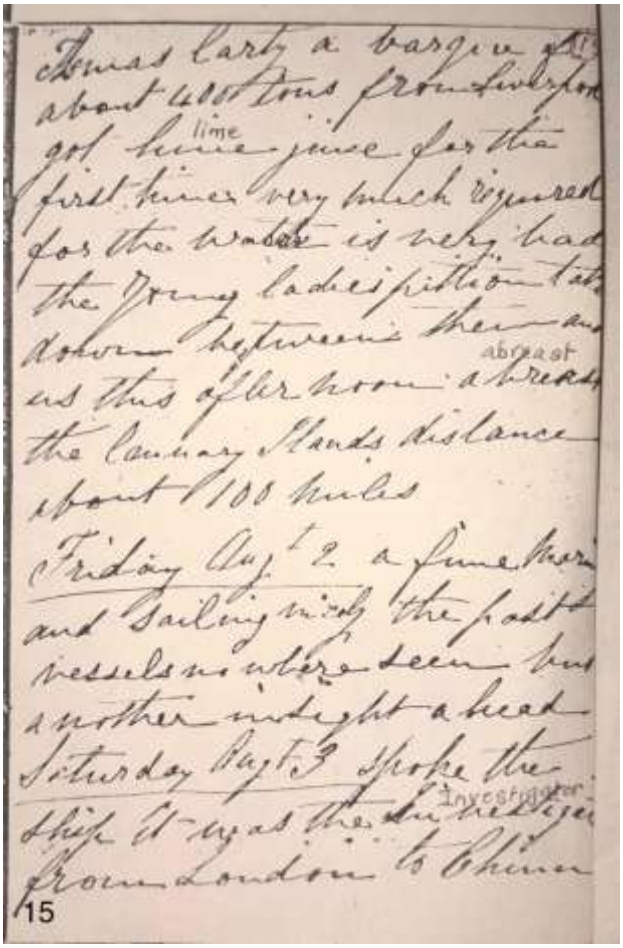
12



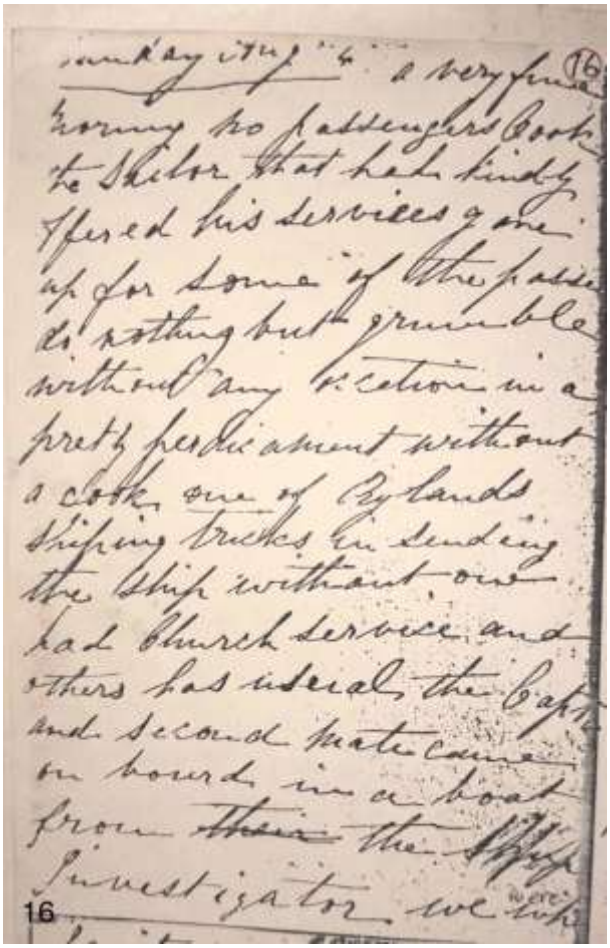
Wednesday 1 o'clock
but all the passengers comfo
are now quite better of
sea sickness that is Mrs Clay
Mrs Coulson and myself
I have been very bad
nearly all the time but get
we have now got into the
trade winds a brig in sight
a beautiful night the planets
very brilliant and all the
stars bright the Great bear
and Polar Star & last descend
Another Barge chickens home
now left us it is to fine for
them some flying fish &
dolphines also a whale have
13



been seen by the sailors
water very bad cannot
drink it rather like rotten
eggs What a blessing would
a drink of pure spring water
be Thursday August 1
fine morning a large ship
about 4 miles ahead a bottle
on the horizon the Captain
brought the two ships close
together and found her
to be the Columbine of
Hull the vessel that laid
along side of us in the Docks
a few flying fish seen near
vessel that proved when
we overtook her to be the
14



Thomas Barty a barque of
about 400 tons from Liverpool
got lime juice for the
first time very much required
for the water is very bad
the young ladies & gentlemen take
down between decks when and
us this after noon a breast
the Canary Islands distance
about 1100 miles
Friday Aug 2 a fine morn
and Sailing nigh the Canary
vessels we have seen but
another midnight ahead
Saturday Aug 3 Spoke the
ship it was the Investigator
from London to Shanghai
15



Sunday Aug 4 a very fine
morning no passengers Doctor
the Steward that had kindly
offered his services & one
up for some of the passe
is nothing but grumble
without any exception in a
pretty predicament without
a cook one of Byrlands
shipping tricks in sending
the ship without one
had Church service and
others has usual the Capt
and Second Mate came
on board in a boat
from the Investigator we were
16

all near by the Captain
so it was quite a
novelty to have Evening
visitors at Sea the
Captain stayed dinner
with other Captains and
returned to his own
vessel as the evening
the first shark seen to day
I am now much better of
my Sea Sickness but dreadfully
thin and weak it was Bens
Watch to night so he had
a bath that has been preparing
a bath that has been prepared
for the purpose filled with
Sea water so both of
he enjoyed it very much

17

I quite envy him his good
wash before coming to bed
Monday May 4th A splendid
hot morning all the male
passengers bathing in a tub
most of them enjoyed it
much Our man Welbourne
very ill something approaching
the Cholera flying fish
seen many people very
poorly thought to be from
the hine juice and warm
weather Welbourn very
bad to night I asked the
Captain if he would have
the tub filled for us to

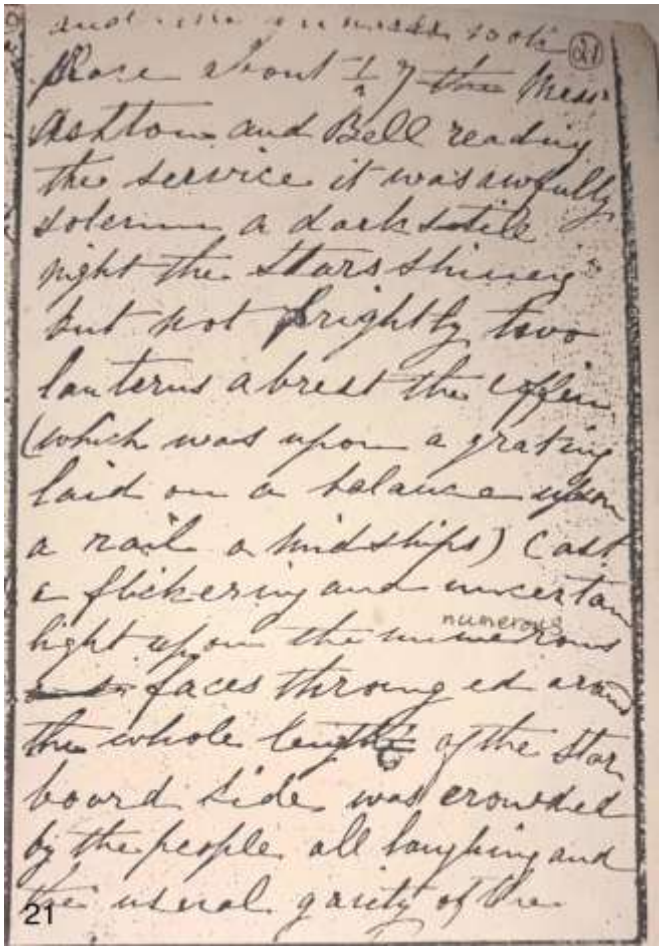
18

Bath and he with his usual
kindness had it done and
I had the first plunge
but being a large tub for
Bentley of Hull joined me
and after we had retired
for the night 3 more of
the females had a good
wash I enjoyed it much
Tuesday May 5th a cloudy
morning very cool and
pleasant We have passed
every vessel that we have
seen since leaving Hull
A Pig killed this morning
Mr Stones clearing a great

19

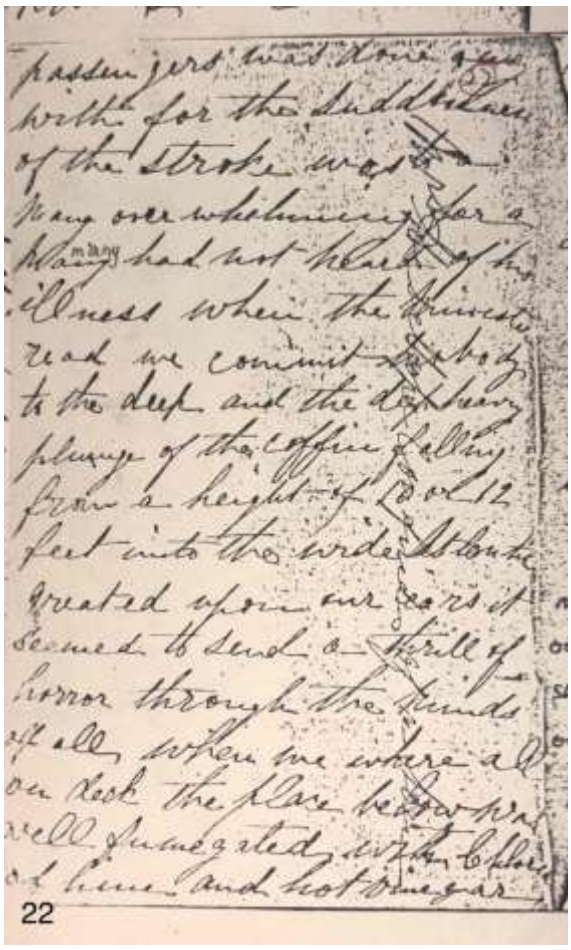
many flying fish and Bellamy
saw the Mary and a Shark
This evening just when we
were going to tea Enoch
Welburn died on the whole
very suddenly and has the
Dr knew that the cause of
death was or would have
been one of the worst
kind of fevers orders
where given to the Carpenter
to make a shell for him
directly the poor man was
put into it just as he
had died and a greater
part of the bedding was
thrown over board

20



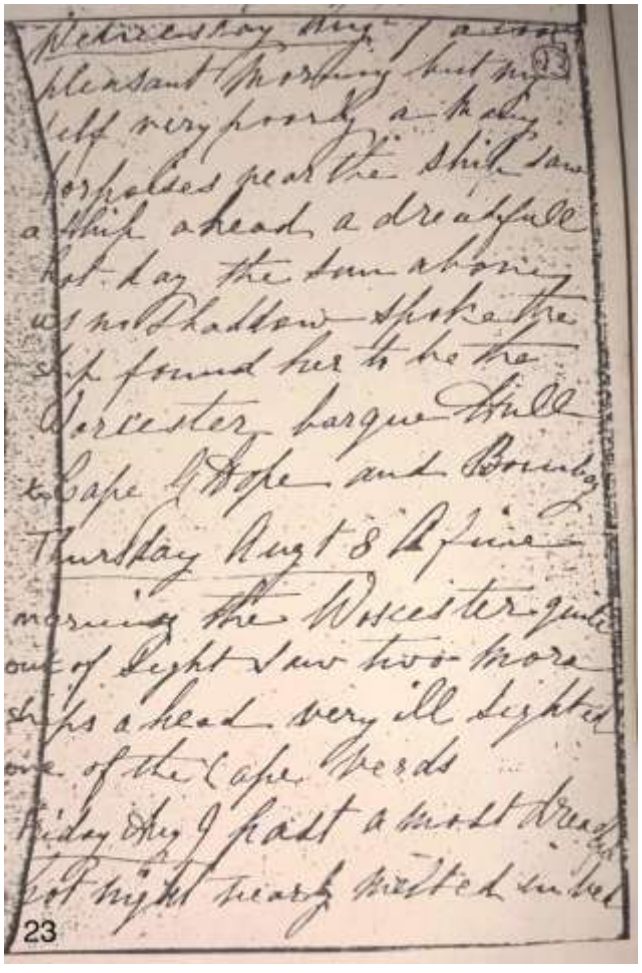
Rose about 1 7 the Revs Ashton and Bell reading the service it was awfully solemn a dark sable night the stars shineing but not brightly two lanterns abreast the coffin (which was upon a grating laid on a balance upon a rail a midships) cast a flickering and uncertain light upon the numerous faces throng'd around the whole length of the Starboard side was crowded by the people all laughing and the usual gaiety of the

21



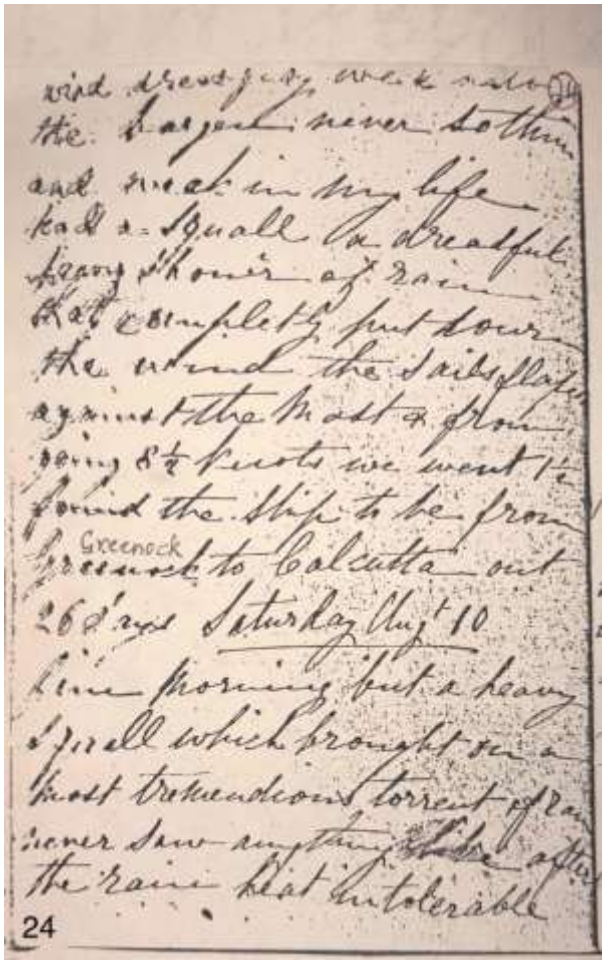
passengers was done away with for the suddenness of the stroke was a many over whelming for a many had not heard of his illness when the Minister read we commit his body to the deep and the dull heavy plunge of the coffin falling from a height of 10 or 12 feet into the wide Atlantic greated upon our ears it seemed to send a thrill of horror through the minds of all when we where all on deck the place below was well fumigated with Chloride of lime and hot vinegar

22



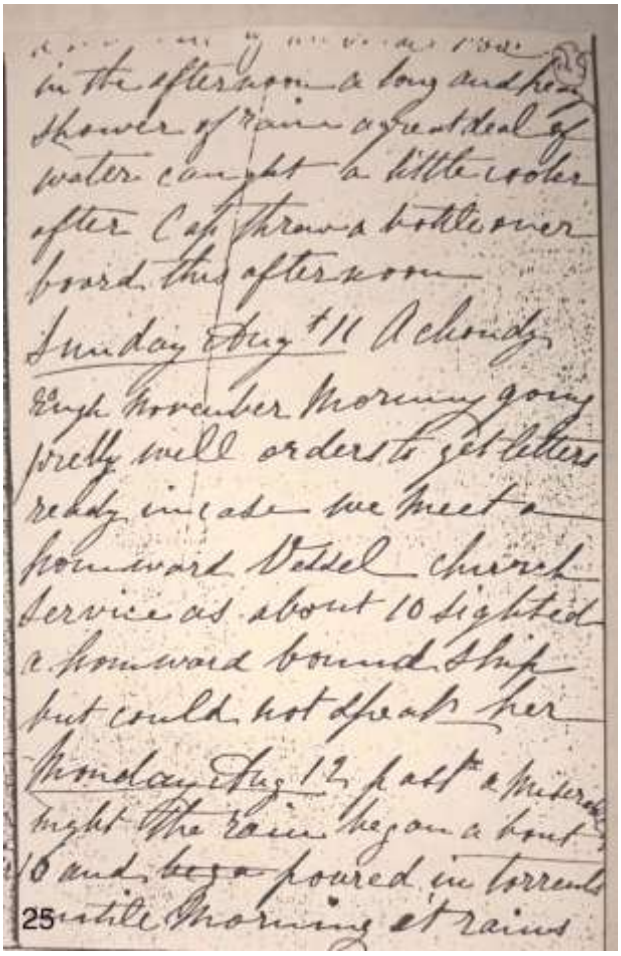
Wednesday Aug 7 A very pleasant morning but myself very poorly a shoal porpoises near the ship saw a ship ahead a dreadfull hot day the sun shone as we had shadow spoke the ship found her to be the Worcester barque Hull to Cape of Hope and Bombay Thursday Aug 8 A fine morning the Worcester quite out of sight saw two more ships ahead very ill sighted one of the Cape Verds Friday Aug 9 fast a most dreadfull hot night nearly melted in bed

23



wind drove us on the Bar and we never so thought we should never see land in my life had a Squall & dreadfull heavy shower of Rain that completely put down the wind the sails flapping against the Mast & flowing & 4 knots we went to found the ship to be from Greenock Greenock to Calcutta out 26 days Saturday Aug 10 fine morning but a heavy Squall which brought on a most tremendous torrent of rain never saw anything like after the rain that intolerable

24

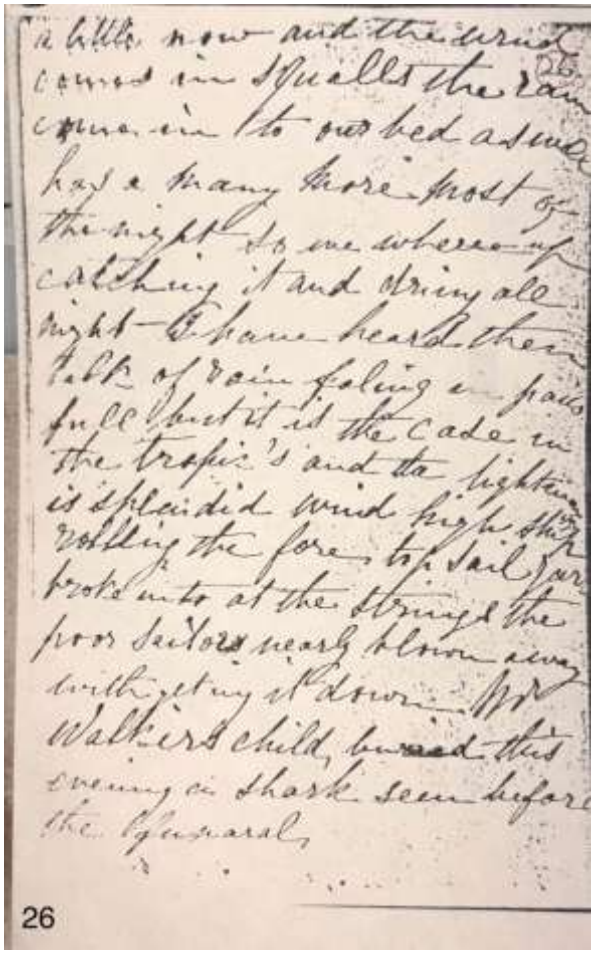


in the afternoon a long and hard shower of rain a great deal of water caught a little cooler after Capt threw a bottle over board this afternoon

Sunday Augt 11 A cloudy high November Morning going pretty well orders to get letters ready in case we meet a homeward Vessel Church Service as about 10 sighted a homeward bound Ship but could not speak her

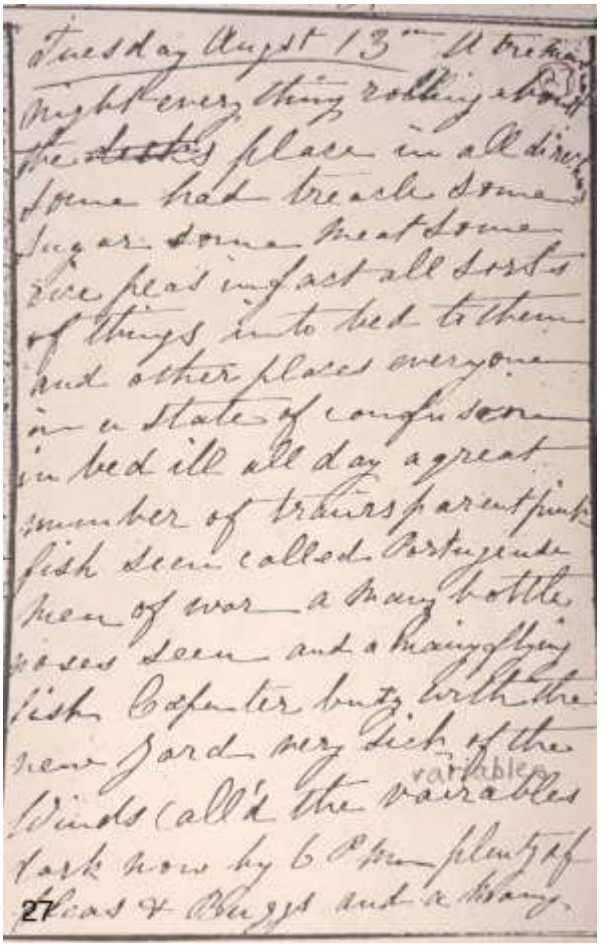
Monday Augt 12 last a Pitch night the rain began about 6 and began poured in torrents while Morning at rains

25



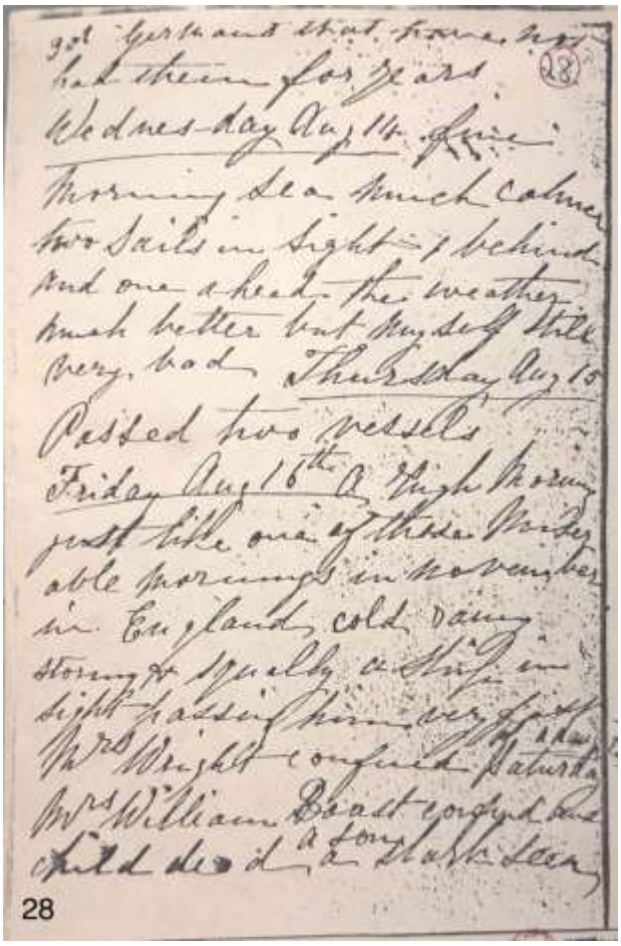
a little now and then during 25
Came in Squalls the rain came in to our bed as well has a many more most of the night so me whereas catching it and drying all night I became heard there talk of rain falling a pail full but it is the Case in the tropics and the lightning is splendid wind high the rolling the fore top sail yard broke into at the strings the poor sailors nearly blown away with getting it down Mrs Walkers child buried this evening a shark seen before the Generals

26



Tuesday Augst 13th A terrible night every thing rolling about the decks place in all direction some had breach some sugar some meat some rice peas in fact all sorts of things into bed to them and other places everyone in a state of confusion some in bed ill all day a great number of transparent jelly fish seen called Portuguese men of war a many bottle noses seen and a many flying fish Carpenter busy with the new yard very sick of the winds call'd the variables variables dark now by 6 O'clock plenty of fleas & Bugs and a many

27



got Germans what home my had them for years 28
Wednesday Augt 14 fine morning sea much calmer two sails in sight 1 behind and one ahead the weather much better but very still very hot Thursday Augt 15 Passed two vessels
Friday Augt 16th A High morning just like one of those Monday able mornings in November in England cold damp stormy & gusty a Ship in sight passing us over Mrs Wright confined Saturday Mrs William Beast coughed Child died a long Shark seen

28

Saturday Aug 17th Fine Morning
still on the Parallels nothing
to see but a Stray flying fish
now and then
Sunday Aug 18 A fine
clear Morning Wind unfavorable
Church Service and
other prayers & Sermons as
usual Monday Aug 19
A fine morning and nothing
particular but I am still
very poorly.
Tuesday Aug 20 A fine
Morning a calm Sea
breeze it is impossible
to describe or any one to
imagine the beautyful

29

Sunsets and the immediate
approach of darkness in the
Tropics it is splendid indeed
Wednesday Augst 21 A fine
Morning much cooler than
I ever expected have cast
no clothing yet but my flannel
Waistcoat and always did
that in England the fish
caught yesterday were very
fat and a Bird called by
the Sailors Boatswains
Head cask of beef all bad and
was all thrown over board
Thursday Augt 22 A beautyful
calm Morning the Ship we
saw yesterday a long way behind

30

my self very bad in bed all day
Mrs Britton died at 4 PM
just has the Capt said we
crost the line I never was
so low spirited I was ill in
bed and could see them
with her till she died and
then I saw them sew her
up in a bag was made and the
was put in it by 4 past six
Buried at 7 a Calm while
evening Mr Britton is left with
one child 15 months old not
yet weaned a very bad job
for poor Mrs and
it quite put a stop to all
the fun that was preparing
in consequence of Crossing

31

the line Friday Augt 23
A fine clear Morning but a
very hot day Bens watch a
good many people getting out
their boxes and finding a
many things wet and spoilt
myself to ill but smell the
one no wish to be showing
all my cloths on the poop
like some Mrs Coulson
for one and the only one
that had an unnessary
exibition and people wish
to know if she is going to
sell a Sale had to go to
bed before the gun of the
line Crossing came on

32

but had not been up for
days before so could not tell
our latitude but we had the
best part below for there
was a little more water than
was agreable to all going about
the decks and the Sailors
Neptune and his crew came
and paid us a visit between
decks brought their fiddle
forks & Hooks dressed in
a most laughable manner
& danced very well some
of the most popular
dances I think they where
at it most of the night
in one place or another
one or two of the young

33

ladies and Gents of the party
where dancing on the deck
to the Sea faring crew join
them and they had a good
bit of sport
Saturday Aug[t] 24 a calm
clear morning the Quarter
Deals where bowded for
a race manned by some
some of the young men
for a wager of ½ a day of
there the winning boat
Crew Cowham Bottrill
Allison Pritchard Young
Brown Sears Manfield Cross
Crew Bell Brambles Bray
Laburn J Shaw Ashton

34

Sunday Aug[t] 25
A fine morning Strong
breeze saw some Whales
Church Service as usual
was taken very poorly and
had to go to bed before the
Preaching a most splendid
night but could not get up then
it every one talking about the
Sunset and Moon Rising
for all I was ill I enjoyed my
dinner to day for having got
some red potatoes for had
a ham & bacon pie if I
had been well I should
almost have lost my self it
is the first dinner I have had
to call a dinner

Monday Aug[t] 26th

35

a fine morning great
numbers of flying fish the last
out of the water by hundreds
a dolphin seen a very rough
night but Moon & Stars Bright
Tuesday Aug[t] 27 a rough
morning my self very poorly
nothing particular to day
Wednesday Aug[t] 28 A fine
morning but Generally a vessel
seen Shaw and Bowrad
no dinner to day for after Breakfast
all the boilers began to
leak they where obliged
to put the fire out the gents
in our mess got hold of the
Sailors peas Soup and
after they got the fire let up
we had some Gruel that

36

Thursday Aug 29 a Very
fine Clear Morning day
and brilliant night
Friday Aug 30 A fine Morning
but Wild in appearance
little Tom Hill very poorly
my self better but very weak
undertook to put him a Mustard
plaster on but not very well
qualified to compete with
a strong 7 year old lad but got
on pretty Middling considering
Saturday Aug 31 A fine
Morning strong breeze and
heavy Sea rather poorly with
the pitching Motion of the
Ship cannot get better

37

Sunday Sept 1 A cold rough
Stormy morning Suddenly Squall
a Ship behind Father gave
us a regular Squally day
the morning Service gone
through but no other a fine
evening the most beautiful Sun
set Came on cold and Stormy
again after
Monday Sept 2 A Squally
Morning but the Lead not so
rough the night particularly
fine Tuesday Sept 3
A fine clear Morning after
the bad weather a party
went out in a boat and
Cod round the Ship
Wednesday Sept 4

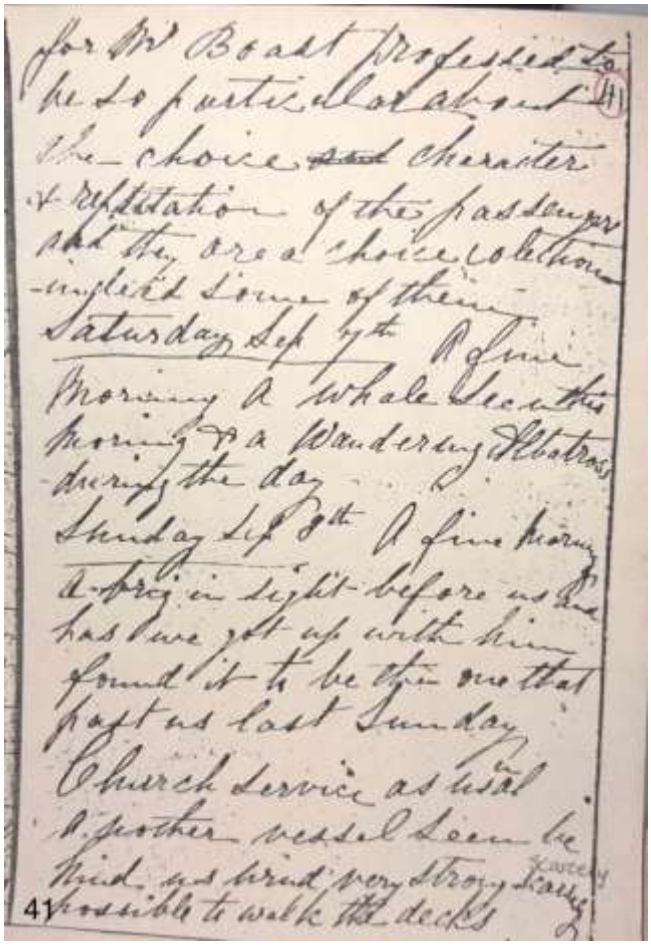
38

A very fine Morning Crost
the Tropic of Capricorn
had a boat Race against this
after noon a pretty good race
the Starboard Side beating
considerably I think it is the
lucky Side Thursday Sept 5
A fine warm Morning
Ship scarcely moving
Friday Sept 6 A Calm Morning
little air pleasant another
boat race quite a fashionable
amusement the Same Sides
Won again A Woman
cast a Gold Ring & Mr Hunt
a Sovereign do in the afternoon
a Search was made through
the Ship in all the beds

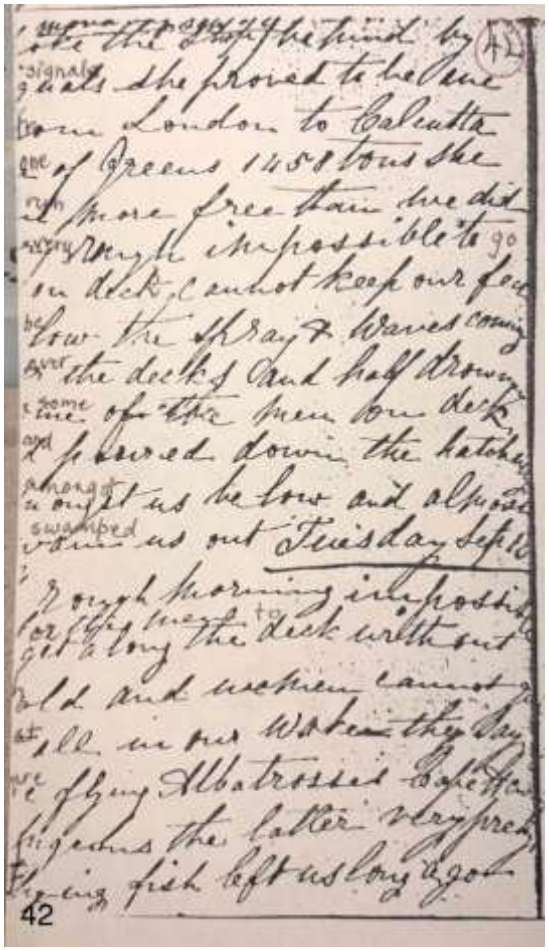
39

not possess inside a pair of
the name of Braithwaite
refused to have him done
so the Capt came down
and the Man said all sorts
of things but at last he
was forced to comply after
great deal of nonsense but
the missing articles where no
where to be found and a
very great dispute that
they where ever lost for
there is a bad character
the Capt was the most
patient man with them
I ever saw but he is one
of the nicest men I ever
Sailed for or his place I am
very much surprised at
the complaining on board

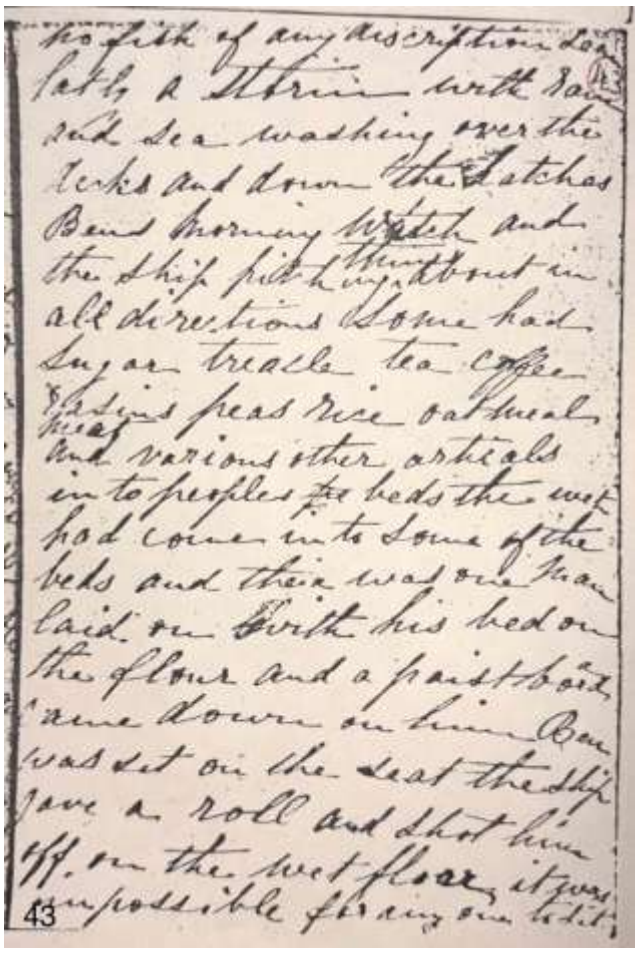
40



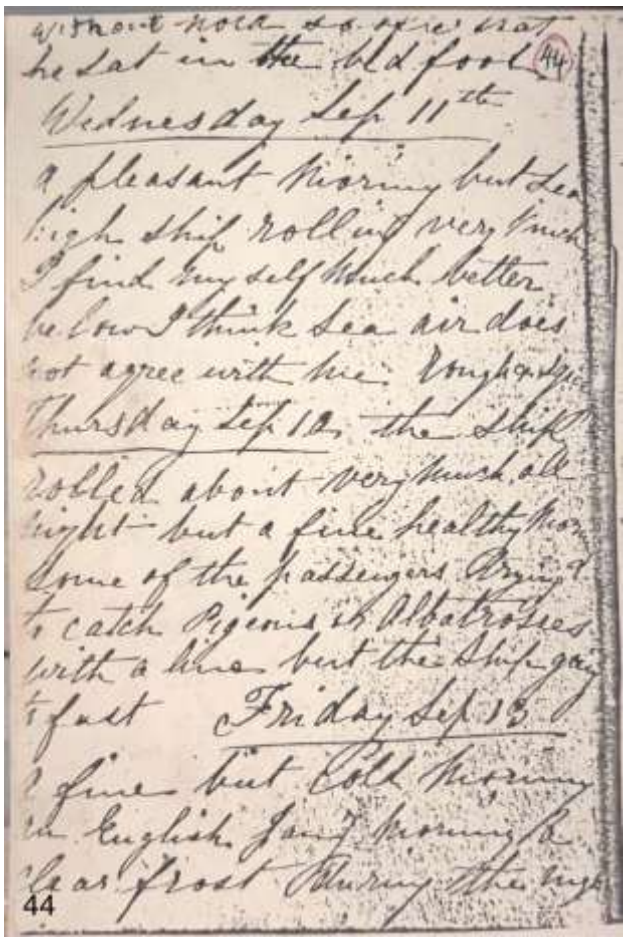
for W^m Boast Professed to
be so partic[ular] about
the choice & character
& reputation of the passengers
& they are a choice collection
-unpleasant some of them
Saturday Sep 7th A fine
Morning a Whale Seen this
morning & a Wandering Albatross
during the day
Sunday Sep 8th A fine morning
a Brig in sight before us &
has ever got up with him
found it to be the one that
past us last Sunday
Church Service as usual
A further vessel Seen be
Wind and wind very strong & squally
Impossible to walk the decks
41



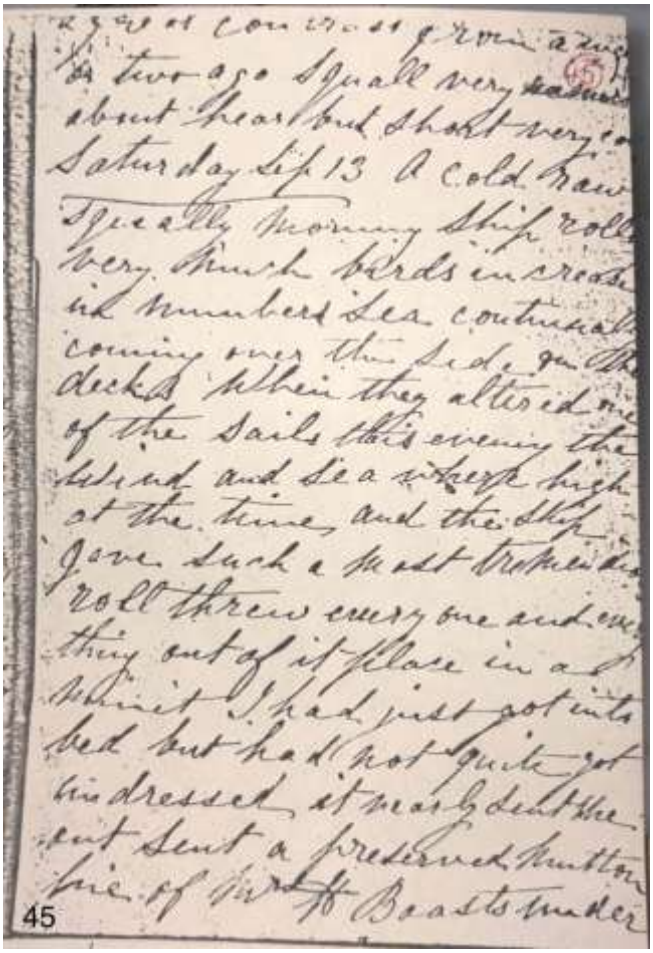
the Ship by the wind by
signals she proved to be one
from London to Calcutta
one of Greens 1150 tons she
had more free than we did
very Rough impossible to go
on deck, cannot keep our feet
below the Sprays & Waves coming
over the decks & half drowning
some time of the men on deck
& pouring down the hatches
among us we must be low and altogether
swamped as out Tuesday Sept
Rough morning impossible
for the men to get along the deck without
hold and women cannot
at all in our Wake they say
are flying Albatrosses Capt Hall
Pigeons the latter very pretty
flying fish left us long ago
42



no fish of any description Lost
Sat[urday] a Storm with Rain
and Sea washing over the
decks and down the Hatches
Sun[day] morning Watch and
the Ship pitching about in
all directions Some had
Sugar treacle tea coffee
Raisins peas rice oatmeal
Biscuit and various other articals
in to peoples beds the wet
had come in to some of the
beds and there was one man
laid on Both his bed on
the floor and a paisteboard
came down on him Ben
was set on the seat the ship
gave a roll and shot him
off on the wet floor it was
impossible for any one to sit
43

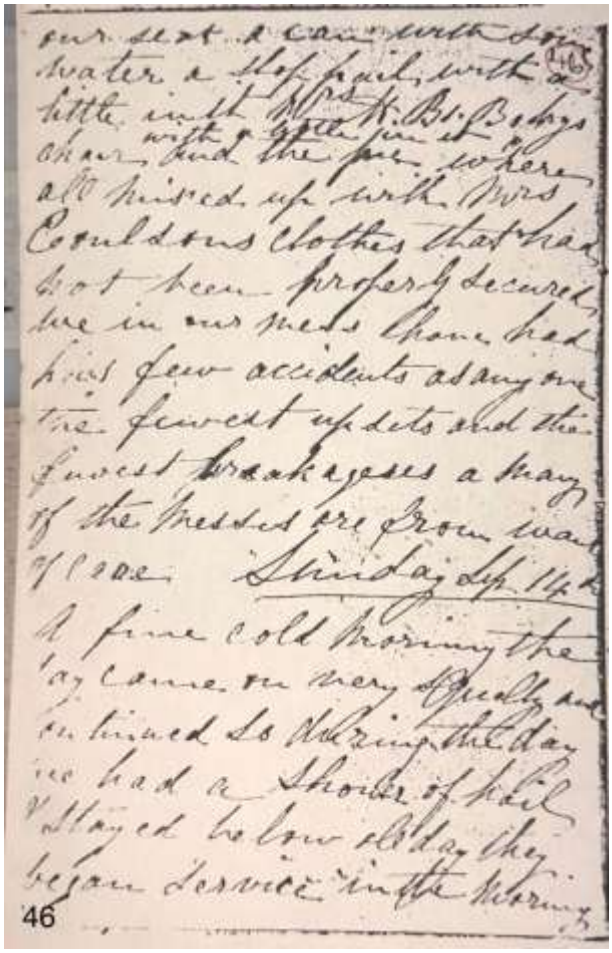


without hold & one must
be sat in the old fool
Wednesday Sep 11th
a pleasant Morning but Sea
high Ship rolling very much
I find my self much better
below I think Sea air does
not agree with me Rough &
Thursday Sep 12th the Ship
Rolled about very much all
night but a fine healthy Morn
Some of the passengers trying
to catch Pigeons & Albatrosses
with a line but the Ship going
fast Friday Sep 13th
A fine but Cold Morning
an English Sunny Morning &
clear frost Morning the high
44



45

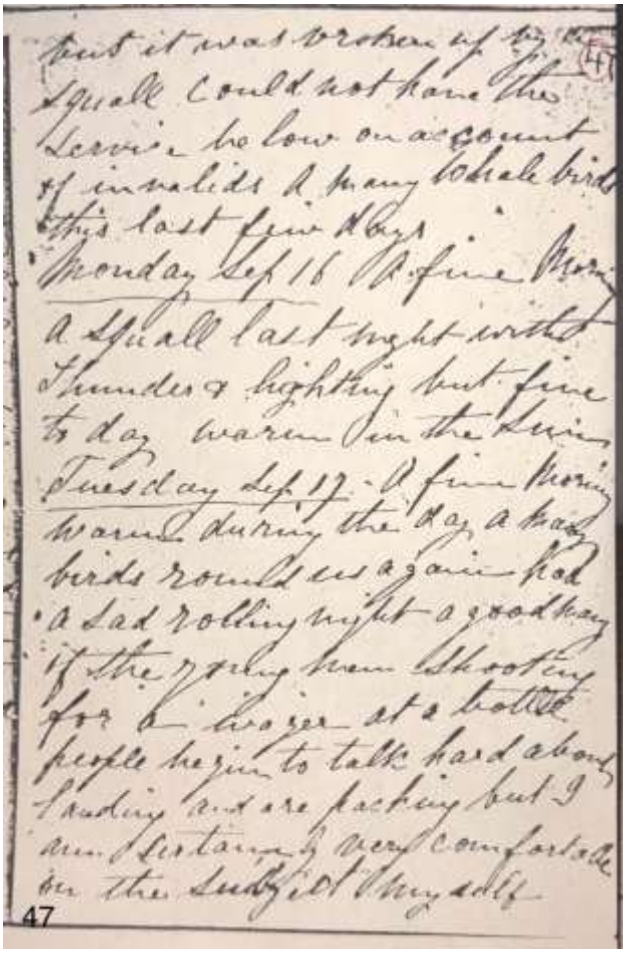
two or so Squall very heavy about Sear but short very Saturday Sep 13 A cold raw Squally morning Ship roll very much birds increase in numbers Sea continually coming over the side on the decks & when they altered one of the Sails this evening the Island and Sea struck back at the time and the Ship gave such a heel broke the roll threw every one and everything out of it place in a Cabinet I had just got into bed but had not quite got undressed it nearly sent the pot sent a preserved Mutton pie of Mr ff Boats under



46

our seat & came with force water a step fowls with a little in it Mrs K. B. Bobys Cabin with a little pie & where all mixed up with Mrs Coulsons Clothes that had not been properly secured in our nets those had his few accidents as any one the fewest upsets and the fewest breakages as many of the dressed are from want of room

Sunday Sep 14 A fine cold morning the day came on very Squally and continued so blowing the day we had a shower of hail & stayed below all day they began Service in the Morning

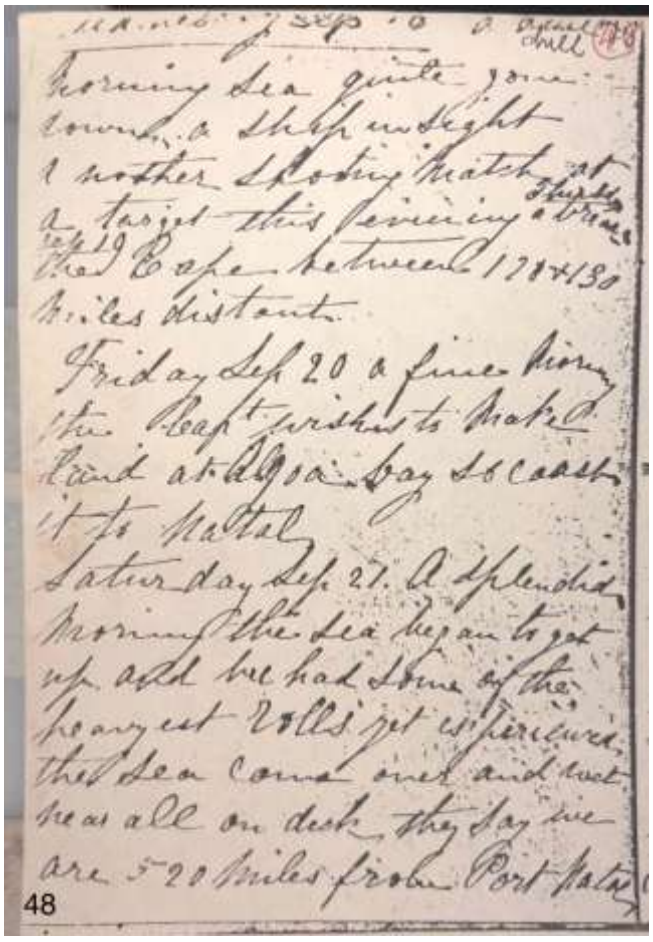


47

but it was broken up by the Squall could not have the Service below on account of invalids & many Whale birds this last few days

Monday Sep 15 A fine Morn a Squall last night with Thunder & lightning but fine to day warm in the Sun

Tuesday Sep 17 A fine morning warm during the day a had birds round us again had a bad rolling night a good many of the young men Shooting for a wager at a bottle people begin to talk hard about Trading and are packing but I am Certain very comfortable on the Ladyfield they say



48

Squall

morning Sea quite gone down a Ship in sight another Shooting match at a target this evening Sep 19 Cape between 170 & 180 miles distant

Friday Sep 20 a fine morning the Capt wishes to make land at Algoa Bay & coast it to Natal

Saturday Sep 21 A splendid morning the Sea began to get up and we had some of the heaviest Rolls yet experienced that Sea comes over and wet us all on deck they say we are 520 miles from Port Natal

Sunday Sept 22 A very
Morning Mrs Clayburn getting
better Went Mrs Coulson to
Mrs Harper very ill the
Cold again very severe
they say their is Land to the
Seen a head it is Algoa Bay
but I shave not gone up for
some that have been can
see nothing at night a regular
storm & the jib sheet
blown to ribbons the Capt
gave orders to Hand down
sail directly their is scotts
like plenty of sea rushing
over & strong but one seams
to care any thing about it
felt quite secure with a
good ship under me I have
not heard of any one being

49

at all afraid but a few
women or two and then was
by that I sent to be of all sorts
Monday Sept 23 Little looking
on got up at 6 and had a
very hard bout to get some
Cakes made the Ship knocking
about so but at last succeeded
Ben took them to the Cook
house last it was most
dreadfully stormy got them
baked and then the storm
came on most furious
nearly all of us Women got
into the head place and
sat for it shot us of the
least in to the flour and
that was soon made clean
for the water came down
the hatches and mixed

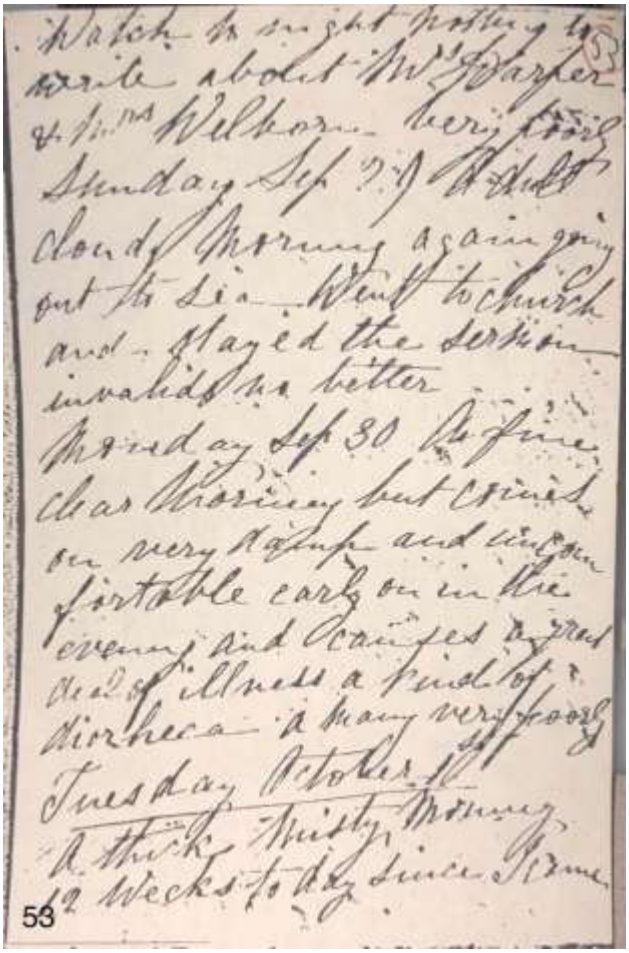
50

With the dust and rain a mess
of it the Gents Roasted & and washed
all up and did all the work
for it it rained and was very
hard Tuesday Sept 24
The Sea much gone down
every one telling us when the
Storm to bed about the
Splendour of the Moon
rising Wednesday Sept 25
A fine morning little wind
Yesterday afternoon Tomas
of them caught a Cape Pigeon
tied a paper round its
neck with the name of the
Ship on it and let it fly
Noon no wind Thursday
Friday Sept 26 A fine morning
A large ship past for the

51

Cape about 175 Miles
Land in sight we hope
yes to day at noon very
tired of being so near and
cannot get there
Friday Sept 27th A very fine
morning but Quite calm
the Steam Quite hot and
the day like one in the tropics
A boat went out with a
shooting party shot a Seal
Albatross Some Mokale
birds and Cape pigeons
at night the wind got
up in a strong direction
Saturday Sept 28 A fine
Morning but making little
progress We are yet 345
Miles from Natal our

52

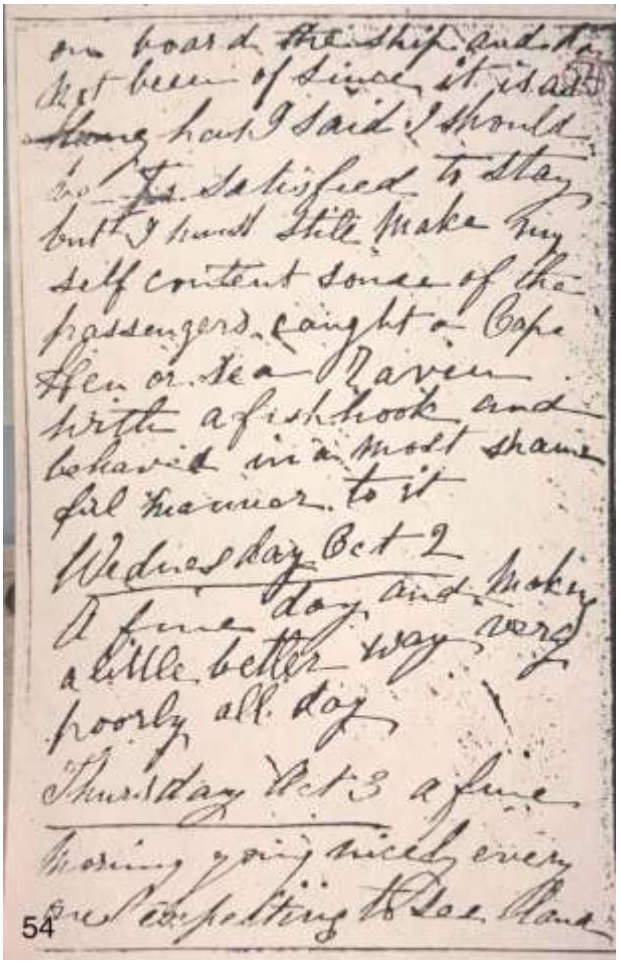


Watch to sight nothing to write about Mr Harper & Mrs Welborn very poorly Sunday Sept 27 A thick cloudy Morning again going out to Sea Went to Church and stayed the Session invalids no better

Monday Sept 30 A fine clear Morning but Crimes on very restless and uncomfortable early on in the evening and Causes a great deal of illness a kind of Diarhea a many very poorly

Tuesday October 1st A thick Misty Morning 12 Weeks to day since Home

53

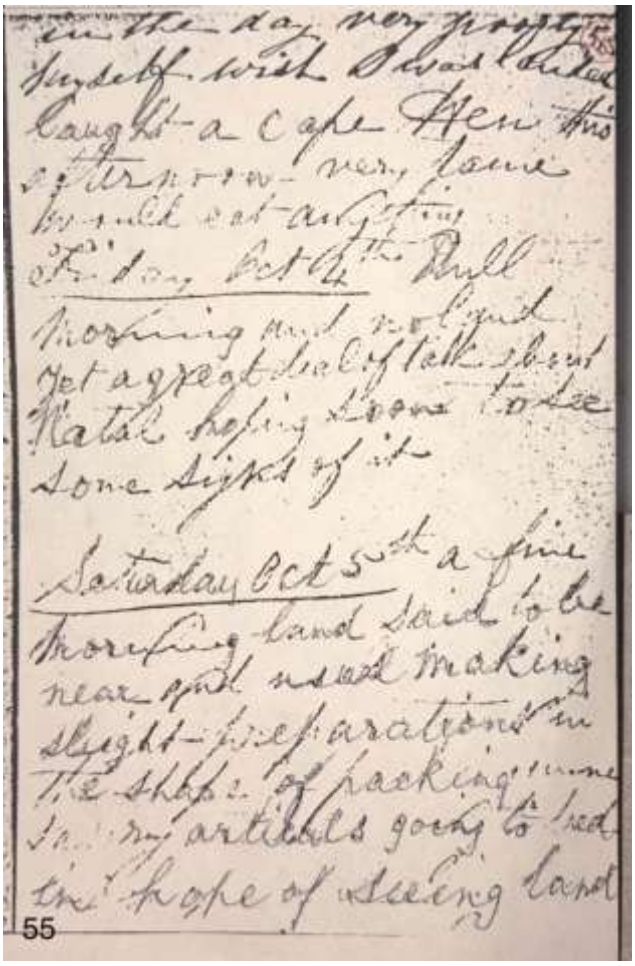


on board the ship and has not been of since it is said long but I said I should be satisfied to stay but I must still make my self content some of the passengers caught a Cape Hen or Sea Raven with a fishhook and behaved in a most shameful manner to it

Wednesday Oct 2 A fine day and making a little better way very poorly all day

Thursday Oct 3 a fine Morning going nicely every one expecting to see Land

54

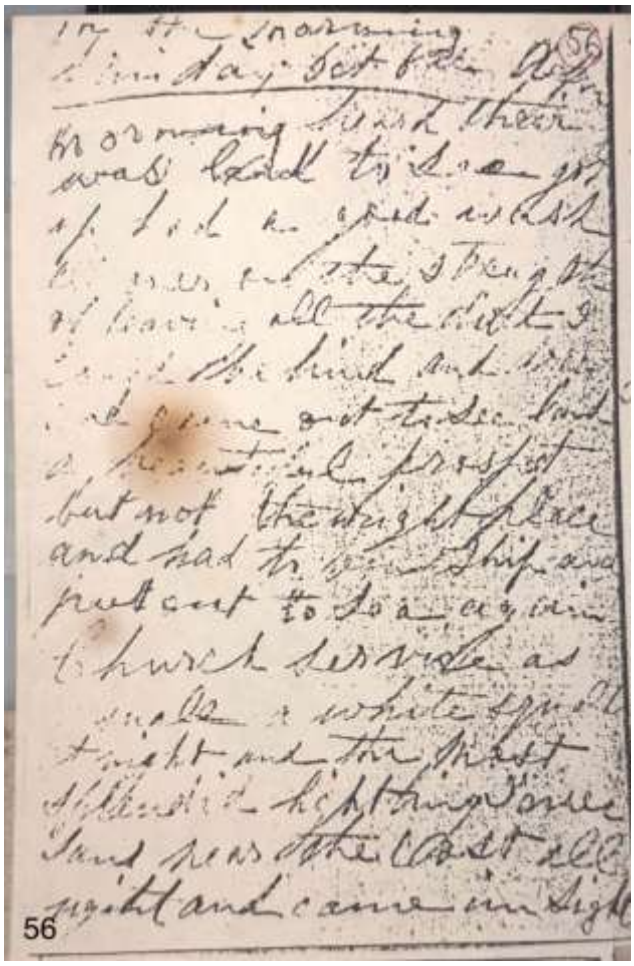


in the day very poorly myself with Diarhea Caught a Cape Hen this afternoon very tame would eat anything

Friday Oct 4th Dull Morning and not Land yet a great deal of talk about Natal hoping soon to see some sights of it

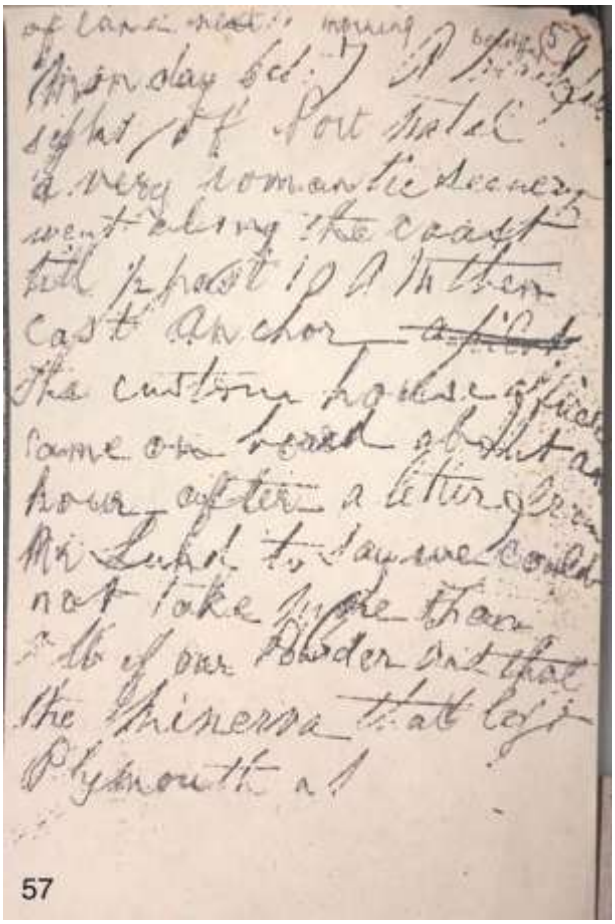
Saturday Oct 5th a fine Morning Land said to be near and used making slight preparations in the shape of packing some Sundry articles going to bed the hope of seeing Land

55



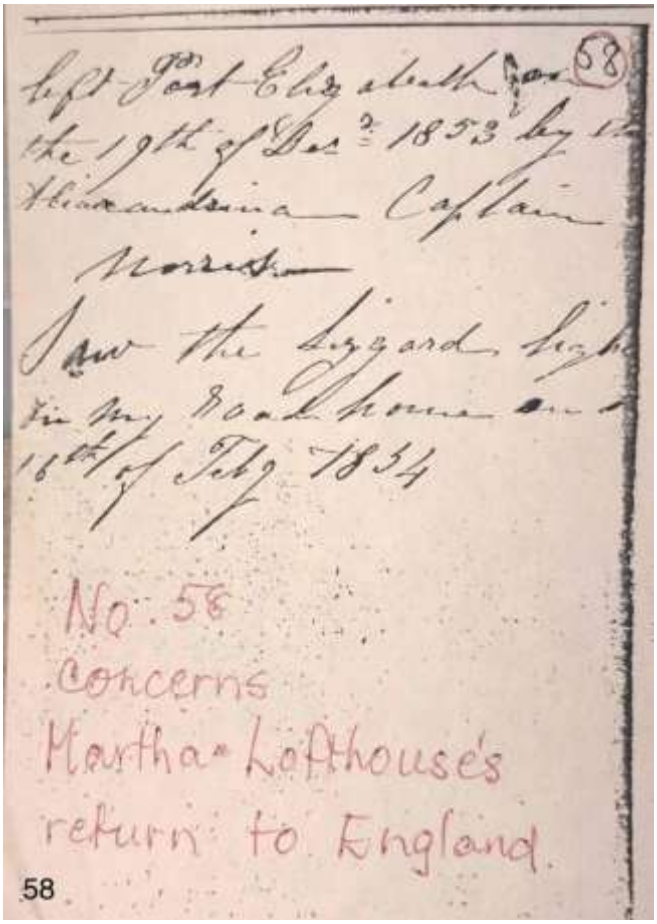
by 8 o Morning Sunday Oct 6th Dull Morning heard there was Land to Sea got up but could not see it being out of sight all the Night I could not find and the Land came out to Sea but a great deal of fog but not the right place and had to go Ship and put out to Sea again to church Service as usual a white Egg all night and the Most splendid lightning I ever Saw near the Coast all night and came in sight

56



of Lands-end morning
Thursday 6th. I [illegible]
sight of Fort Rotal
a very romantic scenery
went along the coast
till 1 past 10 A M then
cast Anchor [illegible]
the custom house officer
came on board about an
hour after a letter from
Mr Lukis to say we could
not take more than
2 lb of our Powder but that
the Minerva had left
Plymouth a

57



58

left Port Elizabeth on
the 19th of Dec 1853 by the
Alexandrina Captain
Morris
Saw the Lizzard light
in my Road home on
18th of Feb 1854

No. 58
Concerns
Martha Lofthouse's
return to England.

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Lofthouse Diary – Handwritten Transcript by Brian Spencer

This a copy of Brian Spencer's handwritten transcript that he sent to me in November 2004.

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If used please acknowledge Neil Lofthouse, present address Cumbernauld BNS.

1. Voyage to Port Natal

DIARY OF MARTHA (PATTY) LOFTHOUSE

Monday the 8th of July left the Hull Dock at 5 p.m. anchored outside the dock till Wednesday the 10th 7 p.m. two young men left the ship had in the Small Pox when we left and anchored in the Grimsby Roads. Friday 12th their still rather sickens but better than I expected. Saturday 13th still in Grimsby. Sailed from their at 2 a.m. Sunday 14th morning us as most on board where seasick. Monday 15th rather better a pig that had fits some days breathed its last
2. this morning and was buryed in the deep the pilot left us at 10 pm off Dover Tuesday 16th When off Denge Ness [Dungeness] lighthouse a passenger thought he should like a bath so jumped over board with his clothes on after that another thought he should like to have his clothes off but he had a narrow escape the tide took him out and they had to lower a boat to fetch him back ½ an hour after when we where at Breakfast a child died belonging to Mr & Mrs Braithwaite and was buryed at 4 PM.
3. Mr Ashton was the pastor, and Mr Mr Smith clerk a funerall at sea is a most imposing scene. Made very little way since we got into the British Channel Wednesday 17th A calm sea and made very little Progress afternoon a tremendous thunder storm awfully grand I have no doubt but the rain was so heavy that we not see it we where cornered down with tarpolins we got on deck about 10 PM and the lightning was beautefull
4. ~~after we had retired to rest a storm arose and we lost the Main top gallant yards and had a rough sea all the next day.~~ Thursday 18th am Windy 12 pm the wind got very high and at 6 pm had a narrow escape of running into Bregg at night lost the main top gallant yard and where nearly all seasick. Friday 19th rough sea and the wind against us made very little way and at 6 pm came in sight of the Isle of Wight ....
..... Barque in view tacked close before us a beautiful sight was to see a ship in full sail by
5. moonlight. Saturday July 20 A beautiful morning light breeze, first favourable since leaving the Downs about 4 miles per hour. The French barque 2 miles astern no land in view about noon. Made Torbay at 10 pm (abreast) Start Point with its lighthouse a barque

Jenny Jones of Swansea crost our bows but we left him far astern before night got the new top gallant yard up about noon Sunday July 21 a calm clear morning not a breeze to stir the sails nor ripple the surface of the sea the ship going back fast with the tide Lizard and a good many vessels
6. in sight had church service at 10½ after which Mr ..... addressed a few words read the evening service in afternoon by Mr Ashton and Mr Bell had preaching in the evening. Saw Ledolyge Tare at 2 pm Isle of Plymouth and ..... the vessel pitched very much ..... night a dreadfull sick night for many of the passengers the Taggard lights in sight.

Monday July 22 past a terrible night the ..... and pitching nearly all of bed all night no ..... and a continual rain all sick no eating or cooking. Tuesday July 23 Past a dreadfull
* stormy night lights all out and a regular
7. tempest everything flying about in all directions Indeed .... a large piece of fat Pork came adrift and all into the berths of one of the passengers the floor covered with ..... and all kinds of articals belonging to every body children crying and people shouting up all round enough to frighten the few that were not sea sick to death in the midst of the storm Mrs Potter brought forth a son
→ Mr & Mrs Boast and Mr P all that was in the berth sick no one else could be had the sailmaker had to lend a hand the child died in the morning a little more favourable in the evening saw lots of Porpoises a splendid night sickness gradually
8 abating. Mrs Potter's child committed to the deep being in a box it floated and was seen some time My self in bed all day.

* Wednesday July 24 a raining morning but fine the rest of the day going very well Mrs Walker gave birth to a son the provisions very good for them that can eat but the water stinking part drinking sea water ... and wasted ... in tea best in coffee.

Thursday July 25
Nothing particular but sick in bed Friday July 26th wet morning but fatned out a fine day still in the Bay of Biscay at Break ..... abreast of Cape Finnistre at 4 pm abreast of ..... a fine afternoon

9. lots of porpoises to be seen in the evening they leaped
completely out of the water and fell again into the sea
with a splash.

Saturday July 27
Fine morning wind light and ship rolling going
pretty well a fine day and all improving in health
Sunday July 28 a beautiful morning ship still
rolling rolled all night stumbled peoples things
a bout in all directions sent the cooks boilers to
the side of the ship the morning prayers read by
messrs Ashton & Bell the sun very warm had the
Flag that Braved a thousand years the battle and
the breeze was stretched over the head of the preacher
and along the deck and kept the sun of a many
of the passengers, assembled at divine service.
10 The Pulpit was the miner hatch with the booby hatch
for a reading desk and the ship rolled absent very
bad in the afternoon evening service and between times
Services of all sorts all day the sun very hot a many
of the birds, called Stormy Petrels or by the Sailors
Mother Careys Chickens where to be seen flying in our
Wake.
* Monday July 29 Fine morning during the night
Mrs Bobenille adopted a boy so our numbers days short
dark by 7 pm The phosphorescent light very
beautiful a night it floats in the sea like balls of fire
the mate says that they are large masses of clear
11 jelly this afternoon the pen[illegible] taken down in
the main hold all our end all grumbleing about it.

Tuesday July 30
A fine morning came in sight of Madeira at 6 pm
got within 25 miles a most dreadful dark night
the air very warm but Pleasant in the evening the
Passengers in small groups all over the deck Some
Sat some standing and others laid all over the
quarter deck very interesting sight so many human
beings so variously employed and all apparently
happy & the features of none to be distinguished
12 a head unless you look closely to [illegible] from the
fore end is heard the [illegible] and songs of the Sailors
& the young men in another part a few lovers of music
where humming together some favourite & difficult
piece of sacred music from another part was heard
the merry laughter and giggles of the young girls
And from all parts the hum of numerous bands in

deep conversation above all the was being of the sea against the vessels sides the generality of the people keep on till 9½ past or 10 o'clock and been dark so soon we have very long evenings.

13 Wednesday 31 Sun very hot all day the passengers

* excepting B. are now quite better of seasickness that is Mrs blaybourne Mrs boulsan and myself I have been very bad nearly all the time has yet We have now got into the trade-winds a ship in sight a beautiful night the planets very brilliant and all the stars bright the Great bear and Polar star o/h . . . . . descending descending Mother Carey chickens have now left us it is . . . . . them some flying fish & dolphins also a

14 Whale have been seen by the sailors Water very bad

* * cannot drink it tastes like rotten eggs What a blessing would a drink of pure spring water be.

Thursday August 1.

Fine morning a large ship about 4 miles ahead a another on the horizon the Captain brought the two ships close together and found her to be the Columbaries off Hull the vessel that laid along side of us in the docks a few flying fish seen another vessel that proved when

15 we overtook her to be the Thomas Carthy a barque of about 400 tons from Liverpool got lime juice for the first time very much required for the water is very bad the young ladies pitikan taken down between them and 10 this afternoon abreast the Canary Islands distance about 100 miles

Friday Augst 2 a fine morning and sailing nicely the fast vessels no where seen but another in sight ahead.

Saturday Augst 3 spoke the ship it was the Investigator from London to China

16 Sunday Augst 4th a very fine morning no passengers look . . . the sailor that had kindly offered his services gave one up for some of the passengers do nothing but grumble without any . . . . . in as pretty . . . . . without a cook one of Rylands shipping tricks in sending the ship without one had church service and others has . . . . . the Captain and Second Mate came on board in a boat from the ship Investigator no where

17 all Nearly becalmed so it was quite a novelty to have ..... visitors at sea the Captain stayed dinner with our Captain and returned to his own vessel in the evening the first shark seen today I am now much better of my seasickness but * dreadfully thin and week it was Ben's watch to night so he had a tub ... that has been preparing for the purpose filled with sea water to bath in he enjoyed it very much.

18 I quite envy him his good wash before coming to bed Monday Aug^{t} 5 a splendid hot morning all the male youngsters bathing in a tub most of them enjoyed it * much. Our man Welburn very ill sometimes approaching the Cholera flying fish seen many people very poorly thought to be from the lime juice and warm weather. Welburn very bad to night I ** asked the Captain if he would have the tub filled for us to bath and he with his usual kindness 19 had it done and I had the first plunge but * being a large tub Mrs Bentley of Hull joined me and after we had retired for the night 6 more of the females had a good wash I enjoyed it much Tuesday Aug^{t} 6th a cloudy morning very cool and pleasant we have passed every vessel we have seen since leaving Hull A pig killed this morning 6½ 20 stones .... a great many flying fish and Bottlenose * seen today and a shark this evening first when we were going to tea Enoch Welburn died on the whole very suddenly and has the Dr knew that the cause of + death was or would have been one of the worst kind of fevers orders were given to the Captain to make a shell for him directly the poor man was put into it first has he had died and a greater part of the bedclothing 21 was thrown over board and the funeral took place about ½ 7 Messrs Ashton and Bell reading the service it was awfully solemn a dark still night the stars shining but not brightly two lanterns whose the coffin (which was upon a grating laid on a balance upon a stool amidships) cast a flickering and uncertain light upon the numerous faces thronged ~~about~~ around the whole length of

22 starboard side was crowded with by the people all laughing and the usual gaiety of the passengers was done away with for the suddeness of the stroke was to many overwhelming for a many had not heard of his illness when the minister read we commit his body * to the deep and the deep heavy plunge of the coffin falling * from a height of 10 or 12 feet into the wide Atlantic greated upon our ears it seemed to send a thrill of horror through the minds of all when we where all on deck the place below was well fumigated with chloride of lime and hot vinegar

Cross written Mrs Hesellape son fried of a son

23 Wednesday Augt 7 A cool " pleasant morning but myself very poorly a many porpoises near the ships saw a ships ahead a dreadful hot day the sun above us no shadow spake the ships found her to be the Worcester bargne bound to Cape G Hope and Bombay

Thursday Augt 8 A fine morning the Worcester quite out of sight saw two more ships ahead very ill sickness one of the boys birds

24 Friday Augt 9 I past a most dreadful hot night nearly melted in bed and dreadfully weak into the bargain never so thin and weak in my life had a squall a dreadful heavy shower of rain that completely put down the wind the sails flaped against the mast and from going 8½ knots we went 1½ found the ship to be from Greenock to Calcutta out 26 days

Saturday Augt 10

fine morning but a heavy squall which brought a a most tremendous torrent of rain never saw anything like after the rain heat intolerable

25 A man ill of the small pox in the afternoon a long and heavy shower of rain a great deal of water came a little cooler after tea threw a bottle over board this afternoon

Sunday Augt 11 " Cloudy . . . . November morning going pretty well orders to get letters ready in case we meet a homeward vessel church service at

about 10 sighted a homward bound ship but could not speak her

Monday Aug 12 part a miserable night the rain began about 10 and poured in torrents until morning
26 it rains a little now and the wind comes in squalls the rain comes in to our bed as well has a many more most of the night so we were up catching it and stinking all night. I have heard them talk of rain falling in pails full but it is the case in the tropics and the lightening is splendid wind high ship rolling the fore top sail yard broken at the stronjis the poor sailors nearly blown away with getting it down. Mr Walker's child buried this evening a shark seen before the funeral

27 Tuesday August 13th A tremendous? night everything rolling about the place in all directions. Some had treatle, some sugar, some meat, some ..... pear in fact all sorts of things into bed with them and other places. Everyone in a state of confusion. Im bed ill all day. A great many transparent pink jump? fish seen called Portugese Men of War. A many bottle noses seen and a many flying fish. Carpenter busy with the new spa yard. Very sick of the winds called the variables. Dark now by 6 pm. Plenty of fleas and bugs and a many.

28 goat ..... that have not had them for years.

Wednesday Aug 14. Fine morning see much calmer. Two sails in sight 1 behind and one ahead. The weather much better but myself still very bad.

Thursday Aug 15

Passed two vessels

Friday Aug 16th English? morning just like one of those miserable mornings in November in England. Cold raining, stormy & squally. A ship in sight passing him very fast. Mrs Wright confined of a daughter. Saturday

Saturday a boy Mr William Boast confined and child died. Mason ..... "

29 Saturday Aug 17th Fine morning. Still in the variables. Nothing to see but a stray flying fish now and then.

Sunday Aug 18 A fine clear morning wind unfavourable. Church service and other prayers & sermons as usual.

Monday Aug 19. A fine morning and nothing particular but I am still very poorly.

Tuesday Aug 20. A fine morning a calm sea breeze. It is impossible to describe or anyone to imagine the beautiful
30 sunsets and the immediate approach of darkness in the tropics. It is splendid indeed.

Wednesday Aug 21. A fine morning. Much cooler than I ever expected have cast no clothing yet but my flannel waistcoat and always did that in England. No fish caught yet a good many birds today about the ~~ship~~ sides of a larger hawk called by the sailors Boat..... A cask of beef all bad and was all thrown overboard.

Thursday Aug 22 A beautiful calm morning. The ship we saw yesterday a long way behind.

31 Myself very bad in bed all day. Mr Britton died at 4 pm. Just as the Capt said we cross the line I never was so low spirited. I was ill in bed and could see them with her till she died and then I saw them sew her up. A box was made and she was put in it by ½ past 5 and buried at 7. A calm still evening. Mr Britton is left with one child 15 months old not yet weaned. A very sad job for him poor man and it quite put a stop to all the fun that was preparing in consequence of crossing the line

32 Friday Aug 23. A fine clear morning but a very hot day. Bent's water. A good many people getting out their boxes and finding a many things wet and spoilt. Myself to ill but if well should have no wish to be showing all my clothes on the poop like some Mrs Boulson for one and the only one that has an unnecessary exhibition and people wish to know if she is going to call sale. Had to go to bed before the fun of the line crossing came on but had not been up for days before so could not stay out late but we had the best part below for there was a little more water than was

33 agreable to all going about the decks and the sailors Neptune and his crew came and paid us a visit between decks. Brought their fiddles, forks & hooks dress in a most laughable manner & danced very well some of the most popular dances. I think there

where at it most of the night in one place or another.
34 One or two of the young ladies and some of the gents where dancing on the poop so the sea faring crew joined them and they had a good bit of sport.
Saturday Aug 24. A calm clear morning. The quarter boats where lowered for a race manned by some of the young men for a wager of ½ doz of sherry. The winning boat crew. Bowham, Bottrill, Allison, Pritchard, Young, Brown, Shearman, man; the other crew Bell, Brambles, Brough, Labutin, S T men, Ashtone
35 Sunday Aug 25
A fine morning. Strong breeze. Saw some whales. Church service as usual. Was taken very poorly and had to go to bed before the preaching. A most splendid night but could not get up to enjoy it. Everyone talking about the sunset and moon rising. For all I was ill I enjoyed my dinner today for having got some new potatoes we had a ham and a bacon pie. If I had been well I should almost have ..... myself. It is the first dinner I have had to call a dinner
Monday Aug 26
36 A fine morning. Great numbers of flying fish. The[y] leap out of the water by hundreds. A dolphin seen. A very rough night but moon & stars bright.
Tuesday Aug 27 A stronger morning myself very poorly. Nothing particular today.
Wednesday Aug 28 A fine morning but squally. A vessel seen homeward bound. No dinner today for after breakfast the boilers began to leak. They were obliged to put the fire out and the gents in our mess got some of the sailors pea soup and after they got the fire lit again we had some grewel made.
37 Thursday Aug 29 A very fine clear morning, day and brilliant night.
Friday Aug 30 A fine morning but wild in appearance. Little Tom Kitts very poorly. Myself better but very weak. Undertook to put him a mustard plaster on but not very well qualified to compete with a strong 7 year old Lad but got on pretty middling considering.
Saturday Aug 31. A fine morning. Strong winds and

heavy seas. Rather poorly with the pitching. Motion of the ship cannot get better.

38 ~~After Monday~~ Sunday Sep 1, ~~Good numbers of flying fish.~~
A cold wet stormy morning. Sudden squall. A ship behind ~~passed~~ rather gaining on us. A regular squally day. The morning service gone through but no other. A fine evening the most beautiful sun set came on cold and stormy again after.

Monday Sept 2 A squally morning but the sea not so rough. The nights particularly fine.

Tuesday Sep 3 A fine clear morning after late bad weather. A party went out in a boat and pulled round the ship.

Wednesday Sep 4

39 A very fine morning cross the tropic of Capricorn. Had a boat race again this afternoon a pretty good race the starboard side beating considerably I think it is the lucky side.

Thursday Sep 5 A fine warm morning. Ship scarcely moving.

Friday Sep 6 A calm morning with air pleasant another boat race quite a fashionable amusement the same side won again. A woman lost a yard & ¼ of print & a sovereign in the afternoon a search was made through

40 the ship in all the beds and boxes inside. A man of the name of Braithwaite refused to have his done so the Capt came down and the man said all ..... to him but at last he was forct to comply after a great deal of nonsense but the missing articles where nowhere to be found and a many greatly dispute that they where ever lost for she is a bad character. The Capt was the most patient man with them I ever saw but he is one of the

41 nicest men I ever so for his place. I am very much surprised at the coppanny on board for Mr Boast professed to be so particular about the choice character and representation of the passengers and they are a choice collection indeed some of them.

Saturday Sep 7 A fine morning. A whale seen this morning & a wandering albatross during the day.

Sunday Sep 8 A fine morning. A brig in sight before us and last we got up with him found it to be the one

that part us last Sunday. Church service as usual.
Another vessel seen behind us. Wind very strong hardly
possible to walk the decks.

42 Monday Sep 9 Spoke the ship behind by signals. She
proved to be one from London to Calcutta one of Greens
1450 tons. She .... more free than we did. Very
rough impossible to go on deck. Cannot keep our feet below.
The spray and waves coming over the decks and half
drowning some of the men on deck and poured down the
hatches amongst us below and almost swam us out.
Tuesday Sep 10 A rough morning. Impossible for the
men to get along the deck without hold and women
cannot go at all in our wake they say are flying
Albatrosses, Cape .... 6 pigeons the latter very pretty.
Flying fish left us long ago. No fish of any description
43 seen lately. A storm with rain and sea washing over
the decks and down the hatches. Ben's mattress water
and the ship pitching things about in all directions. Some
had sugar, treacle, tea, coffee, raisins?, pease, rice, oatmeal,
meat and various other articles in the people's beds the wet
had come into some of the beds and their was one man
laid in with his head on the floor and a paisboard came
down on him. Ben was sat on the seat, the ship gave a roll
and shot him off on the wet floor. It was impossible for
44 any one to sit without hold so after that he sat in the
bed .....
Wednesday Sep 11 A pleasant morning but sea high. Ship
rolling very much. I find myself much better below. Think
sea air does not agree with me. Rough & squally
Thursday Sep 12 The ship rolled about very much all
night but a fine healthy morning. Some of the passengers
trying to catch pigeons or albatrosses with a line but the
ship going too fast.
Friday Sep 13 A fine but cold morning. An English
45 fancy morning a clear frost during the night
A great contrast from a week or two ago. Squall very
..... about heat but stout? very cold.
Saturday Sep 13 A cold, raw, squally morning. Ship
rolling very much. Birds increase in numbers. Sea
continually coming over the sides on the decks. When

They altered one of the sails this evening the wind and
sea where high at the time and the ship gave such a
most tremendous roll threw everyone and everything
out of it place in a minute. I had just got into bed
but had not quite got undressed it nearly sent me out
46 sent a preserved mutton pie of Mrs H. Boast's under our
seat, a can with some water, a slop pail with a little
in it, Mrs H.B's babeys chair with a [illegible] in it and the
pie where all mixed up with Mrs boulsons clothes that had
not been properly secured. We in our mess have had but
few accidents as any one, the fewest upsets and the fewest
breakages a many of the messes are from want of care.
Sunday Sep 14 A fine cold morning. The day came on very
squally and continued so during the day we had a
47 shower of hail I stayed below all day they began service
in the morning but it was broken up by a squall.
could not have the service below on account of invalids.
A many whale birds this last few days.
Monday Sep 16 A fine morning. A squall last night with
thunder & lightning but fine today. Warm in the sun.
Tuesday Sep 17 A fine morning warm during the day.
A many birds round us again had a sad rolling night
a good many of the young men shooting for a wager at a
bottle. People begin to talk hard about landing and are
48 packing but I am certainly very comfortable on the subject
myself.
Wednesday Sep 18 A dull morning. Sea quite gone down. A
ship in sight. Another shooting match at a target this
evening. Thursday Sep 19 The Cape between 120 & 130 miles
distant.
Friday Sep 20 A fine morning. The Capt wishes to make land
at Algoa bay .... coast it to Natal.
Saturday Sep 21 A splendid morning. The sea began to get
up and we had some of the heaviest rolls yet experienced.
The sea came over and wet near all on deck. They say we
~~47~~ are 520 miles from Port Natal
49 Sunday Sep 22 A veiled morning. Mrs blaydes getting
better but Mrs boulson & Mrs Harper very ill. The cold again
very severe they say there is land to be seen ahead it is
Algoa Bay but I have not gave up for some that have
been can see nothing. At night a regular storm

The gib sheet blown to ribbons the capt gave order to
stand from land directly. Their is nothing like plenty of
sea room in a storm. No one seamed to care anything
about it but felt quite secure with a good ship under us.
50 have not heard of anyone being at all affraid but a
nervous woman or two and their wont be of much use
to us of all sorts.
Monday Sep 23 little cooking on. I got up at 6 and had
a very hard bout to get some cakes made the ship knocking
about so but at last succeeded. Ben took them to the cook
house but it was most dreadfully stormy. Got them
baked and then the storm came on most furious heavy,
all of us women got into the bed places and sat for it
that us of the seat into the flour and that was none
57 so clean for the water came down the hatches and
mixed with the dirt and made a mud of it. The gents
cooked all and washed all up and did all the work
for it rained and was very wet.
~~Thursday~~ Tuesday Sep 24
The sea much gone down. Everyone telling us when they
come to bed about the splendour of the moon seeing
Wednesday Sep 25
A fine morning little wind. Yesterday afternoon some of
them caught a bape Pigeon, tied a paper round its neck
with the name of the ship on it and let it fly. Noon no wind
52 Thursday Sep 26 A fine morning. A large ship past for
the bape. About 75 miles further of than we where
yesterday at noon. Very tired of seeing so near and cannot
get their.
Friday Sep 27 A very fine morning but quite calm. The
sun quite hot and the day like one in the tropics. A
boat went out with a shooting party shot a small
albatross, some whale birds and bape pigeons. At night
the wind got up in a wrong direction
53 Saturday Sep 28 A fine morning but making little
progress. We are yet 345 miles from Natal. Our water
to night. Nothing to write about. Mr Harper & Mrs Welbanks
very poorly. Sunday Sep 29 A dull cloudy morning.
Again going out to sea. Went to church and stayed
the sermon. Invalids no better.
Monday Sep 30. A fine, clear morning but comes on
very damp and uncomfortable early on in the evening

and causes a great deal of illness, a kind of diarrhea. A many very poorly.

Tuesday October 1 A thick misty morning. 12 weeks today since I came on board the ship and have not been off since. It is as (tiresome) long (that I said I should be satisfied to stay but I had still make myself content. Some of the passengers caught a Lapethen or Sea Raven with a fish hook and behaved in a most shameful manner to it.

54

Wednesday Oct 2 A fine day and making a little better way. Very poorly all day.

Thursday Oct 3 A fine morning. Going nicely. Everyone expecting to see land in the day. Very poorly myself, wish I was landed. Caught a Lapethen this afternoon very tame would eat anything.

55

Friday Oct 4 Dull morning and no land yet. A great deal of talk about Natal hoping soon to see some sight of it.

Saturday Oct 5th A fine morning. Land said to be near and us all making slight preparations in the shape of packing articals. Going to bed in hope of seeing land in the morning.

56

Sunday Oct 6 A fine morning. Heard their was land to see. Got up had a good wash all over on the strength of leaving all the dirt I could behind and ..... and came out to see land a beautiful prospect but not the wright place and had to round ship and put out to sea again. Church service as usual. A white squall at night and the most splendid lightning ~~flashes~~ I ever saw. near the coast all nights and came in sight of land on the .....

57

Monday Oct 7 At ..... Up at 6 to see Natal. A very romantic seeing. Went along the coast till ½ past 10 am then cast anchor. The custom house officers came on board. About an hour after a letter from Mr Lund to say we could not take more than a lbs of gun powder and that the Minerva that left Plymouth

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Plummer Diary – Typed Transcript by Keith Geldart

This copy was sent to me by Derek Comins (RIP) of Amberglen, Howick, KZN. Derek in turn had obtained it from Keith Geldart of Boston, KZN. Back to Contents

MISS PLUMMER'S JOURNAL ABOARD THE "HAIDEE" 1850

1.

All things shall work together for good to them that love God his sermon was chiefly addressed to those of us who are intending to imigrate in the Haidee to Port Natal. Monday 13th we can scarcely persuade ourselves that we are inhabitants of a busy comercial town while we lay to the song of a little captive thrush wabling out varied notes from his little prison which is near to our bedroom window, we feel a peculiar attachment to the beautiful little creature as it reminds us of one which for some years in the spring perched on a tree in the orchard at the old home, we do feel that absence makes the heart grow (torn off here).

We expected today to have been examined by Lieutennant Lean but as the married people with their familys had to pass first there was not time for us, we therefore (re)paired to Waltham St Chapel to hear a funeral sermon preached by Mr Prist for the late Revd Richard who died last month in ---don at a very advanced age ------ one of those who laboured - our venerable founder there - only two others now living who were ordained by him.

Tuesday 14th. May
We passed our examination which is merely to see wether our statements and appearance correspond with the shedules. In the afternoon we took tea with Mr Smithson's family, Mr Smithson was a native of (more missing)
sweet wild flowers, the Hawthorn hedges reminded us of the fields we have left behind. We then reluctantly returned to the smoky town of Hull and reached our lodgings about nine o'clock in the evening. A gentleman whom we did not know preached on board the Haidee from Jesus of Nazareth who went about doing good, Sister and I intend sleeping on board our ship for the first time.

Friday 17th
Went with Miss Smithson's in a cab to see the cemetry there we saw the graves of several hundred who had died of that awful scourger the Cholera which was so prevalent in Hull last Summer and Autumn among others we observed a monument erected to the memory of two young gentlemen medical students from Edinborough one aged 22, the other 21 who died nearly at the same time last October.

Sunday 19th
We had the church prayer read and a sermon preached by a clergyman of the church of England, the Lieutenant acting as clerk. He is a fine old gentleman about 60 years of age. The text was 20th verse in the 18th Chapter of St Mathew's gospel. In the evening we took tea with Mr Smithsons family then went to a chapel belonging to the independants in Albion Street expecting to hear the justly celebrated Newman Hall but he was in London. We heard a very talented man from Ecclesastics9. 10 verse.

Tuesday 21st
Mr Brast says he expects we shall leave the dock tomorrow morning Called upon Mrs Smith and Mrs Daniel to bid farewell, she informed us of Mrs Smith's confinement, she has got a son. Last Thursday mornin Mrs Rainsdale from Marketweighton came to see us.

Thursday 23rd
Mr Boast has been taken suddenly ill, the passengers have been so long delayed that they are unwilling to prodeed without receiving something for the expenses they have been at and the time they have lost since the time which was stated for sailing. Then a dispute arose about who was to pay the expenses which ended in a trial between Mr Boast and Mr Rylands the ship owner and has brought on the dangerous illness which our beloved Mr Boast is labouring.

Friday 24th
Mr Boast is worse and fears are entertained of his recovery. In the afternoon Brother, Sister, Mr Foggitt and I went in the Price of Wales steamboat to New Holland. Had a delightfull walk in Lincolnshire and then returned by the same steamer.

Saturday 25th
Mr Boast much worse therefore the time of our departure is very uncertain.

Thursday30th
How mysterious are the ways of providence our beloved Mr Boast is now numbered with the silent dead, his spirit took its flight a few minutes before 12 o'clock last night when he w s in a state of insensibility but we entertain not the slightest doubt but that he is now where the wicken ceases to trouble and the weary are at rest.

Friday 31st
The remains of dear Mr Boast were taken to North Dalton yesterday and he is to be interred this evening at 6 o'clock.

Saturday June 1st
Mr Thomas Smith from wildon came on board.

Monday 3rd
Mr comins came into our c bin and very much suprised us by saying that my father had come. I could scarcely believe him thinking he must be mistaken but we were soon convinced of the truth of what he said by the appearance of dear father himself, and once more in England had the satisfaction of embraceing and kissing one of the best of parents.

Tuesday 4th
We went with Father to take tea with Mr Smithson's family.

Wednesday 5th
We accompanied our dear father on the steamboat which is to convey him to York. We felt very much at parting with him but we are soothed by the hope of seeing him again even in this world tho not in our native land. In the evening we were suprised to see Mr Edward Green from Wetherby, he had come with a lady whose sister is going with her family to port Natal.

Thursday 6th
Mr Rylands says he will unloaden the ship rather than pay our expenses, but we think he only wants to intimidate us and induce us to go without any remineration for our long detention.

Monday 10th
We started at 6 o'clock by the Eagle of Goolesteamer on an excursion of pleasure to Alkb Hills and after a delightful sail of 3 hours up the river Humber and Trent we reached our landing place where there are a few scattered houses. We purchased some bottles of Lemonade which the gentlemen carried in their pockets and then proceeded to the Hills. Passed some gardens where we saw some Laburnum trees richly covered with their lovely and graceful flowers which strongly reminded us of home sweet home. From the hills we had a most enchanting view of the surrounding country, corn and Grass fields covered with residue and the beautiful Trent with its smooth waters could not fail to remind us of the goodness of our heavenly father, our minds were led from nature up to natures God.

O God how good beyond compare. If thus the meaner works are fair If thus they bounties guild the span of ruined earth and sinful man How glorious must thy mansion be where thy redeemed shall worship thee. We then proceeded to a village called Burton where there is a prithy little church which we entered and saw several marble tables erected to the memory of different persons. One family of the name Sheffield whose estate is near to this place. After passing through the village which is a clean and lovely place, we entered a Gentlemans park and seating ourselves upon a fallen tree we spread our cloth upon the green grass and partook of some sandwiches etc. which we had brought with us, and then spent the remainder of the day in alternating rambling and resting. In the evening we took tea at a cottage where we landed in the morning and then returned to Hull where wearrived at 8pm after enjoying ourselves very much.

Tuesday 11th
This day the members of the Wesleyan society on our ship have been divided into cl·sses and we are to meet at the vestery of Waltham St Chapel to receive tickets. Mr Prest, Mr Jackson and Mr Lewelyen were present." Mr Prest gave an exhortation in which he exhorted us to cleave to God wether prosperity or adversity should be our portion and set an example worthy of imitation in the country which we have adopted as our future home. Mr Jackson also gave a short address but he was very unwell and did not say much.

Wednesday 12th
A party of us went to see the gavison. We saw over the armoury where there are a great many flags all I think Brit ish and from age and exposure to the sun and air they are all torn to pieces. There are a great many guns also stakes pointed and rails etc. to erect tents to lodge 1600 men.

Thursday 20th
Death has again visited us and seized as his prey a little child 13 months old. It expired on Tuesday and is interred today.

Saturday 22nd

Another child has died onboard. After many trials and on our part much anxiety we are obliged to go without a farthing of detention money. We have signed to that effect on purpose that we may get off. We expect to sail on Tuesday.

Sunday 23rd
We have had a birth on board. Mrs Kirby was confined of a daughter Her name is to be Haidee as I understand she is the first child born on our vessel.

Thursday 27th
Mr W. Stockhill, Mr Lund, Mr Foggitt, Brother, Miss E Coulson, Sister Jane and I had a delightful sail across the Humber in a boat to a pl ce called Paul. We walked about in the green fields an hour or two and then sailed back to Hull. In the afternoon we attended a tea meeting in the Sailors Institute which was provided by the Mayor and others for the emigrants on board the Haidee. Several ladies and gentlemen were present who are not of our company. After the tea speaches were delivered by several gentlemen. I Hend-wood Esqr in the chair. The Lieutenant said he hoped we should sail either on Saturday or Sunday, the ship has this day been removed into the middle o f the dock to be ready for sailing.

Sunday July 7
Mrs Hislop was confined to night of a son.

Monday 8th
We have at last after many removes left the dock and are now laying in the roads. Mr Hastings and Mr Hobden from Fflascby came on board to see us. We went on shore and took a walk to the railway station and in the town.

Tuesday 9th
Went on shore for the last time. Called upon Mr Smithson's family and then returned to the ship not expecting totread on English ground anymore perhaps for ever.

Wednesday 10th
At half past 7 o'clock we weighed anchor and reached Grunsby roads at half past 10, but the time of our final departure is still uncertain as we have left two young men at Hull considered to be beginning the smallpox. One of them is G. Leckonby the man we had engaged togo with us, the other a stone mason of the name of Preston.

Monday 15th
This morning we are opposity the coast of Suffork. It was decided to leave the two young men behind under the care of a skillfull surgeon, consequently we again weighed anchor on Sunday morning about 2 o'clock. We all slept till between 5 and 6 o'clock. When we awoke most of us very sick, some of us with great difficulty dressed ourselves and crawled on dock where we found ourselves somewhat relieved most of the passengers were more or less affected with sickness although the sea was unusually calm. We have passed Margate and Ramsgate and deal and have seen by the aid of a telescope the seat of the Duke of Wellington, and can now Monday evening distinctly see the beautiful white cliffs of Dover. We have written a letter to our dear parents and intent to send it on shore with the Pilot who is to leave us tonight, a A boat from Dover is now alongside of our ship to take him on shore. After dark we saw the gass lights at Dover which twinkle like as many stars apparently just above the waters edge and have an uncommon and pleasing appearance.

Tuesday 16th
Today we had a funeral at sea, it was the body of a fine little boy about 2 or 3 years old who died this morning. His remains were placed in a deal coffin and at the time of interment was covered with the flag called the union Jack and laid on some boards which were fastened by ropes. Mr Ashton one of the passengers read the service and then the coffin was lowered to the water and soon disappeared beneath the waves of the ocean, having holes bored in the end and a quantity of lead inside. This is another warning to us who are spared and speaks loudly, be yee also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh.

Thursday 18th
Towards evening the sea became rough which caused us to be sick and we were glad to tumble into our births with our cloths on and the beds rolled up.

Friday 19th
Lost sight of the Isle of Weight. For the last four days our course has been first towards France and then England owing to contrary winds and sometimes we have scarcely had any wind at all. We have

winds and sometimes we have scarcely had any wind at all. We have seen the coast of France and have sailed 25 miles to and fro to gain half a mile in the right direction.

5.

Saturday 20th
Passed at a distance the port of Plymouth, saw Eddystone lighthouse. We are now sailing calmly with a fair wind and hopw soon to be clear of the EnglishChannel.

Sunday 21st
We sat looking at the lights of Lizzard point and lingered long looking as they are the last we shall see on our native England, but we were obliged reluctantly to repair to our cabin on account of the wind and dreadfulrolling of the ship.

Tuesday 23rd
Yesterday and today we have been tossed about in Biscay's Bay. Yesterday will be a day never to be forgotten. Sickness prevailed throughout the ship more or less. There were several porpoises seen in the morning and a finner which we are informed is a species of Whale. Few people arose until afternoon. To add to our misery it rained all day. About two o'clock this morning they tacked the ship, when to what a scene, water cags, hotchpots, beeftins, mugs, oatmeal, coffee, gurel, tea in fact almost everything on shelves tables and seats came tumbling down. Some on the births and some on the floor, bags baskets, bonnets, coats dresses and everything which was hung up and could stir wagged backwards and forwards to our amusement, notwithstanding we were so ill, but it was nevertheless dismal to contemplate the floor when we felt unable to stand or clean up. A little son of Mr Potters died this afternoon after a short life of a few hours.

Friday 26th
Some scores of porpoises were seen tonight snorting in the waters, some lept several feet above the water. We have had two more births on boardxThis week. We have had favourable winds lately.

Tuesday 30th
Tonight we saw att a distance of about 40 miles the Island of Madira. Er sre making from 5 to 8 knots an hour.

Aug.
Thursday August 1st
This morning we spoke a Bark which proved to be the Columbine an which laid beside us in the dock at Hull and left 3 weeks before us but went to hartlepool for a cargo which place she left on the --. She is bound for Bombay at 4 o'clock this afternoon. We spoke another Bark the name "Thomas Oarty,"from Liverpool, they have been out 23 days and were bound for Rio in South America.

Saturday 3rd
We overtook and spoke another ship this morning, the name Investigater from London and bound for Hongcong in China. She had been out three weeks and expected to be 20 weeks from the time of starting to the time she reached her destination.

Sunday 4th
We have had the church prayers read and while Mr Moss one of the passengers was preaching, a boat with the Captain and second mate with five sailors came from the ship we passed yesterday. We have only left her about 5 or 6 miles behind. They told us that they have on board their ship a milk cow and fresh baked bread every day. They have a Chinese lady with them. It is very clean looking and

beautiful ship but not so large as ours. Their object in visiting us they said was to procure tobacco and we felt sorry to see the Sabbath thus desecrated and more so when we could not help thinking their visit was more out of curiosity than want of tobacco and we thought they might have visited us without breaking the Sabbath.

Monday 5th
We have lost sight of the Investigater. A great many large fishes have been seen today, we were told they are dog nosed fishes but some will maintain that they are young whales. Two sharks have also been seen last week supposed to measure in length about 9 feet. We have seen several flying fishes during the last week. This morning Mr Humble killed a small pig which was sold at 9d per lb and as we had saved a great deal of saltmeat they exchanged some fresh for our salted. We had some roasted for dinner wich with some especially preserved potatoes we enjoyed very much, being the first fresh meat we have tasted since leaving Hull.

Tuesday 6th
This evening one of our passengers was suddenly called into eternity his name was Welburn. He was a member of the primitibe methodist connection and his end was peaceful and happy, may God help us who are left so to number our days that we may apply our hearts into wisdom and may this awful circumstance teach us that we also are mortal

Wednesday7th
This day the heat is intence almost unfufferable, we are exactly under the sun.

Thursday 8th
The heat is still oppressive.

Friday 9th
Towards evening we passed another ship the name Flilblane from Greenrock and bound for Bombay.

Sunday 11th
The church pravers were read by Mr Ashton one of the passengers, in the morning after which Mr W. Stockhill preached. Mr Kemp preached in the afternoon and Mr Moss in the evening.

Monday 12th
The sea this morning is very rough and the rain heavy. Wrote a letter to be ready to send home should we meet with any homeward bound vessels. The motion of our ship is so violent that we find some difficulty in standing, walking sitting or even laying in bed. The scene below is at once distressing and laughable. It is impossible to keep order all our household goods of whatever description falling frequently and suddenly from their properplaces. On the floor whilst all liquids which happen to share this fate treaten almost to deluge any who may be in the w y and render the floor impassable. One of the yardarms was broken in the morning. A shark was seen before dinner. In the afternoon alittle infant was committed to the deep who died last night, there to remain till the greedy sea shall yield her dead.

Tuesday 13th
The sea still continues rough and the motion of the bessel in the night I think more biolent than ever, threatening almost to throw us out of bed. We are now opposite Serie Leone but at a distance of 500 miles. A great quantity of beautiful gelly fishes were seen during the day. Their form appeared to somewhat resemble a fan, the colour lilack with pink edges. Mr Lofthouse endeavoured to catch some but has not yet succeeded. In the afternoon we asaw a bottle nosed fish which I understand is

bottle nosed fish which I understand is a species of whale. It came very near the vesseland played about apparently fearing no evil. We thought it a very prithy beig spotted something like a leopard.

7.

Our progress today is very slow not more than 2½ or 3 knots. They are obliged to tack s we are not going in the right direction owing to c ntrary winds.

Wednesday 14th
Today we saw a ship behind us but as she did not overtake us we have not learnt the name. Mr Bot erill caught one of the fishes which we supposed to be shell but when caught it was like nothing but a little iven(?)jelly although as beautiful when floating in the sea. We have only been going about 1½, 2½ and 3 knots.

Thursday 15th
The ship we saw behind us yesterday has passed us during the night

Saturday 17th
Mrs W Boast confined of a still born child. A shar' was seen.

Wednesday 21st
A great deal of beef has been thrown overboard as it had turned bad probably on account of its being salted during the hot weather.

Thursday 22nd
Crossed the e uator at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, just at the time Mrs Britain another of our passengers entered the world of spirits heaveing a husband and child 15 months old,to lament their loss the funeral service was performed by Mr Ashton, Mr Bell acting as clerk.

Friday 23rd
This morning hundreds of fishes of various kinds principally bottlenosed porpoises were seen. This evening about 5 O8clock saw the sunset surrounded by the most brilliant clouds, this is a most beautiful but rare sight as the evenings have generally been cloudy and dull. Immediately after sunset the shades of evening begin to fall and in a few minu es one appartment is completely dark We went on deck to see the moon rise which far exceeds anything of the kind we have seen in England as itemerges from behind the thick dark clouds tinging their edges with gold collar. The nights are so light that as to enable us to read without difficulty. The sea is unusually calm not a rip le is to be seen on the bosom of the mighty deep but our progress is very slow. About eighto'clock a splash was made in the water when Neptune and his retinue were supposed to emerge, we soon saw the comic procession, Neptune had his face blacked and streaked with white, another young sailor was dressed in womans clothes and passed for his wife. The barber had on the remains of an old white apron and on his head a large comical cap and in one hand a forked stick, he was followed by the cook who to make his appearance more odd clumsily waddled with a greasy bucket on h his arm, they all proceeded to the cabin to the amusement of all present, the captain after asking them several questions as to their success in fishing gave them some grog which was the object of their visit after which they all gracefully bowed and retired.

Monday 26th
Sharks have been seen fol owing the ship for some days, most likely on account of the great quantity of meat which has been thrown away. Yesterday some whales were seen. This morning several shoals of flying fishes were passed us, t ey very much resemble flocks of white

flying fishes were passed us, they very much resemble flocks of white pigeons but smaller. For this last day or two we have favourable winds, what they called South East Trades. We make from 7 to 9 knots an hour.

Sept 6

Friday September 6th

An albatross was seen this morning. The weather is much colder as it is now winter in these latitudes.

Friday 13th
The weather is extremely cold, we have had some showers of sleet. Albatross and other birds called Cape Pigeons and Cape hens in great numbers. The Cape pigeon is a very pretty bird, the breast is white as snow, the head, back and wings are dark brown spotted with white, they fly at the rate of 50 miles an hour.

Saturday 14th
The wind is very high and piercing but favourable. We have been sailing from 9 to 10 knots for some days, the ship again pitches and rolls with all her mig t frequently throwing us off our feet and from our seats and placing us with our mugs, jugs and what not in the most ludicrous positions. We find it rather difficult at all times to keep our patience, but having got all things put to rights we soon join the hearty laugh of our more fortunate companions of one the passengers was holding a bowl of flour which she was about to make up when a moment she was thrown backwards on the floor followed by the contents of her bowl to the no small amusement of all witnesses.

Sunday 15 th
Fair wind, the sea very rough and roared tremendously towards evening. The wind rose to nearly a gale, the royals were taken in and th e lower sails closly reefed encountered several heavy squals the sea constantly running over the main deck and splashing over the forecastle We have lately seen another kind of bird called whale birds, which are said to feed on dead whales. They are beautiful little creatures slate coloured and white. Got out of the Western and entered the Eastern hemisphere.

Wednesday 18th
The weather has for this last week been stormy and unsettled but now it is much milder and warmer. There is a bark on our starboard bow but at too great a distance to be spoken. Expecting to be off the Cape tomorrow if the wind continues.

Thursday 19th
We are now off the Cape at a distance of 100 miles, the weather is remarkably fine for the season as this is the worst month in the year in this part. The chief mate has been 16 and the sailmaker 20 voyages and both say they never knew it so fine so near the Cape. They are preparing the bo ts and getting out the ch in cables. We past the mast of a vessel, we are about 900 miles from Port Natal.

Saturday 21st
we are off Table Bay almost 8 0 miles, the morning was very fine but towards evening wind got up and blew quite a gale.

Sunday 22nd

The wind blew os herd we were obliged to boat the ship as we were in danger of being driven too near land. At 4 o'clock saw land which was Algoa Bay about 80 miles distant.

Monday 23rd

Wind has been stronger last night and this morning than ever we have know it, the sils were taken down with the exception of two and with those we sailed 11 and 12 ~~knots~~ miles an hour but the violent pitching

few of us ventured on deck towards evening when things were a little more settled.

9.

Saturday 28th

The sea is so clam that some of the young men have been out in a boat on a shooting excursion. They brought with them an albatross, a cape hen and cape pigeon, a whale bird and others. They have often caught birds by attaching a bait to a fish hook, the hook being fastened to a line. Our progress this week has been very slow owing to calms and contrary winds.

Oct.

Thursday Oct 3rd

This evening while they were altering the sails a sudden and very heavy squall coming on the wheel by which the ship is steered was taken out of the man's hand which might have been of very serious consequence but fortunately the man escaped unhurt. The spindle of the wheel was very much bent but nothing broken.

Friday 4th

The ship carpenter and an emigrant who is a blacksmith with the assistance of some of the sailors repaired the wheel. They filled a tub with coals upon which they made a fire, keeping that part o f the deck wet to prevent any accident from fire. There is scarcely any wind, the ship not sailing more than ½ a knot to 1 an hour.

Saturday 5th

Last night the wind rose and being fair for us we have sailed briskly for the last 12 hours. The face of almost every passenger now wears a smile as we expect soon to reach our destined port.

Sunday 6th

Sighted land this morning at day bread and in a few hours we were so near as to distinctly see the shore of what we supposed to be Natal but as we were not far enough and the Captain being aquainted with the coast we put out to sea again. About 6 o'clock pm the wind rose and Mr R Smith was obliged to close the religious service at the conclusion of the second hymn. The rain began to fall and we had a dreadful thunder storm. The forked lightning was awfully grand shooting up the heavens in yellow streams. At other times the sky apeared on fire, the thunder roared and cracked tremendously but we had not much rain . Before bedtime the storm abated, for this we felt thankful to that God whom winds and seas obey.

Monday 7th

Soon this morning we were told that land was visible. About 7 o'clock we looked through our windows and again beheld the green mountains. We were soon on deck and discovered what the Captain thought would be bluff which forms the one side of the bay of Natal. This proved to be as expected for when we were a little nearer we saw by the aid of a telescope the light house and flag staff on the top of which we soon saw waving in the breeze the colours which meant what ship is that and wither bound, we answered the "Haidee" from Hull, others were then hoisted signifying thay had sent to report us at D'Urban We sailed delightfully until opposite the bay and then dropt anchor at ½ past 10 o'clock am. The harbour master came on board bringing with him a letter from Mr Lund to Mr Boast, Smith and others. Messrs Tutin and Lund are in the neighbourhood and in good health. Two surf boats were sent from the port to land the passengers as the ship is much too large to cross the bar. They were filled with goods and passengers and proceeded to the landing place which is about 3 miles distant.

Tuesday 8th

Tuesday 8th October 1850
Left the ship Haidee at 12 o'clock after living on board 5 months and 4 days. We have made a good passage for the season. We have been

10.

12 weeks and 1 day while others have been 17 weeks and sailed from London. We had rather a tedious sail in the boats the wind being against us (it rained nearly all way which made it very unpleasant as we were rather crowded. We were about 70 passengers in number with a great deal of luggage and beds. We saw a kaffir on the beach carrying a plank, part of wreck we supposed, as the emigrant ships "Minerva" and "Brittish Tar" have been wrecked lately on this dangerous coast. We reached the landing place about 5 pm. We sheltered under the verandah belonging to the custom house until the rain abated and then walked to D'Urban, there not being room in the waggon and cart which were all the conveyances there.(The kaffirs not liking to work in the wet crossed out.) The walk through the bush was most delightful to us, it is so long since we enjoyed the priviledge, the road was very sandy, we often sank up to the ankles in it. We met with some of our friends and being very wet and uncomfort ble put up at the Trafalgar Inn. There was some fires in the back kitchen where we partly dried our wet garments. Got our tea in a room which should consider in England a decent stable, but the floor was matted and we had seats and a table and what was but an excelent tea to which we did ample justice being so long confined to salt provisions, how thankful we feel to that God who holds the wind in the hollow of his hand for preserving us so long on the mighty deep and permitting us once more to tread upon the solid ground.

Wednesday 9th
Went down to the beach to watch the boats come in, the second was brother George safe and well. He went to see the wreck of the Brittish Tar, the ropes and sails of which is to be sold in lots for auction. We rode in a waggon to the town and such a jostling shaking ride I never remembered having before but for my own part I quite enjoyed it. The kaffir boy who drove us ran and danced by the side of the waggon crying "here's your sorts" evidently proud of knowing a little English. On the road he managed to pass a white boy who was driving a cat, he was delighted with his success and frequently turning round and shouting triumphantly "me good quick, me good quick".

Thursday 10th
They have been erecting one tent, Sister and I have had a walk in the bush which in many places resembles a gentleman's shrubbery, but there are not many flowers not yet fruit as it is the beginning of Spring here Captain Hopkinson has engaged a bugg to convey the luggage on shore, which will cost Mr Rylands about £200.

Saturday 12th
The brig has got into the bay with part of the goods and will begin to unload on Monday. Most of the tradesmen who came out with us have got work and good wages but provisions are generally dear.

Wednesday23rd
Today there has been a wedding at the church. I think the bridegroom is an officer in the army. There were carriages with four bullocks and a wagon pulled by 14 oxen, they were escourted by men on horseback who all dismounted when the carriages stopped. The ladies were nearly all in white, the gentlemen principally in regimentals. There was a very large party of them. They had to us who had latelt come a very odd appearance, so different to the English mode of teaching.

Friday November 8th

to go further than Maritzburg.

Saturday 30th
Mrs Comins, Sew, Miss Comins, Mr R and wife and child, Mr Fox and Joseph have left Durban. The Dutch farm is now bought and they are going to lay out a township in or near which we intent to live. The name of the town is to be York as we are all with one or two exceptions from Yorkshire.

Dec
Wednesday December 11th
The Pallas from Hull has arrived with 18 passengers, this is the ship which Mr Boast first chartered but it was not passed by the inspectors, it being too small for such a great number of us.

That finishes what is left of the original.

First copied by E.G. Alborough (one of the third generation decendants of these early settlers.) 1937

Copied by Keith Geldart in August 1977.

NB. First page or pages of this diary are missing.)

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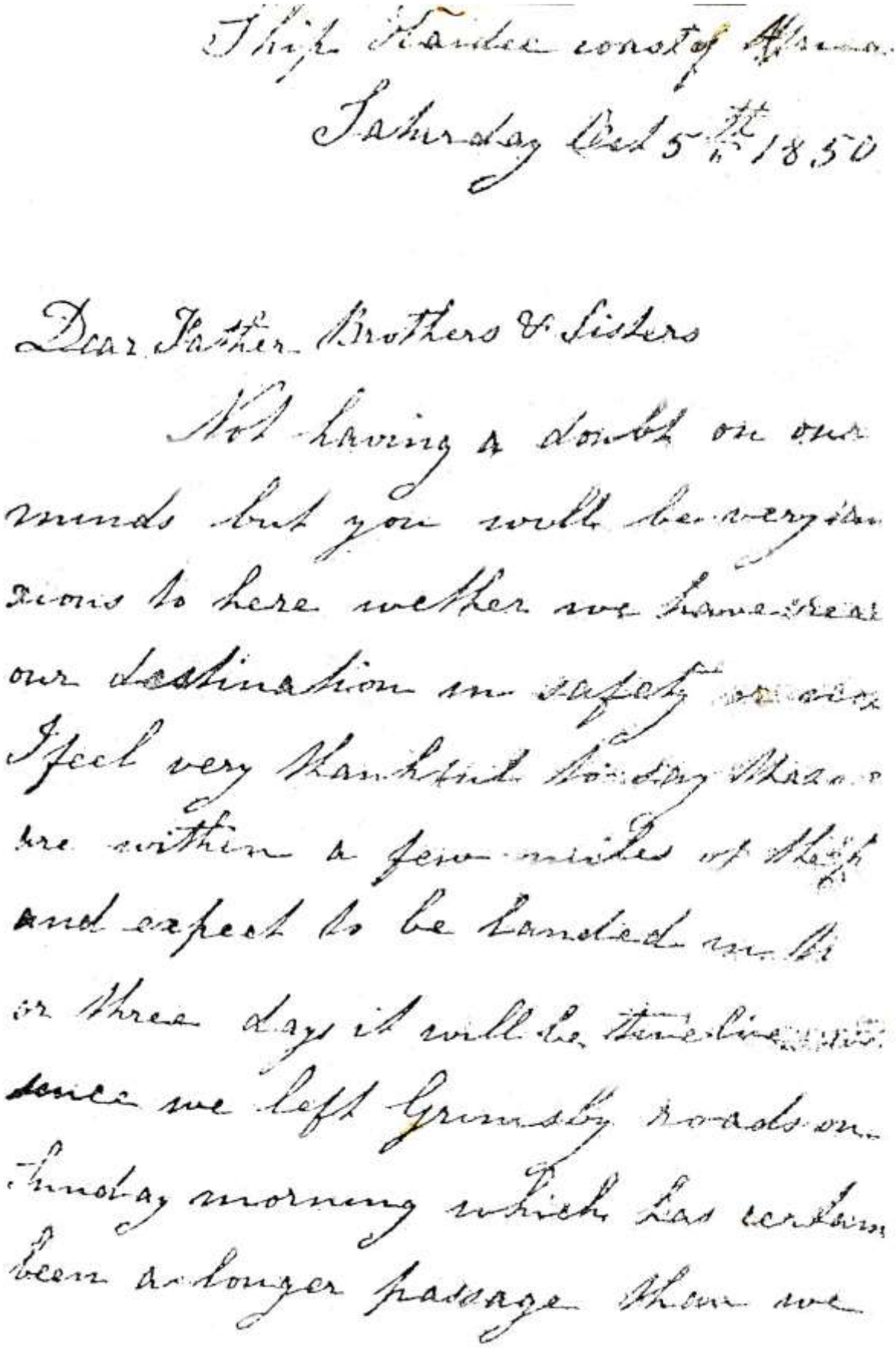
William Boast's Account – Copy of Original Document Back to Contents

Stuart Heslop sent me a copy of this handwritten letter in March of 2021.



High Kander coast of Africa.
Saturday Dec 5th 1850

Dear Father Brothers & Sisters

No having a doubt on our minds but you will be very anxious to here wether we have reached our destination in safety or not I feel very thankful to say that we are within a few miles of High and expect to be landed in 2 or three days it will be a time since we left Grimsby Roads on Monday morning which has certainly been a longer passage than we

calculated upon, yet upon the
whole we have had a splendid passage
never having what the Sailors call a stiff
blow the whole of the way, we have never
been hatched down although we have
very oft had the Ship pitching and
rolling about so that we were not able
to stand without having good hold
of something or other, I think that neither
me nor any wife have ever been
least alarmed that as regards our
safety the whole of the way. After we
had been on board about a fortnight
the wind blew very strong from the
N.E. and having been remarkably
low until then almost of the passage

heads from the pillow all the day
not being able to dress poor little
Anne or scarcely to get her any
meat, as for ourselves, the very thought
of such a thing was insufficient, however
in the course of two or three days
we got over it, although a few days
suffered more or less from it the
greatest part of the way. On the 16
of August my wife began to be very
sick full of pain the Doctor giving
her something which relieved her in
four O'clock on saturday morning that
I had to send the doctor and about 10
in the forenoon she was delivered
of a fine chubby faced little Lady which

remain sick, and in the evening

[illegible] afterwards the sick were moved
in canoes continued the body of
a clear little lake to the nearby
creek which felt very thankful to our
feeling, I got Mrs Robison to nurse
dear Hannah which I had very great plea
sure, being in a weak and precarious
state having had a most severe time
and feel truly thankful that she com
fort far better than either the Doc
or any one could have expected, being
able to walk about a little on a fort
night, and at the present both myself
and her are enjoying a good state of
health, we put Anne out to nurse with
a woman the name of Capt who will
keep her until we land, she looks

remarkably well and fat, and gr

very interesting we have [illegible] of
allowed us fast more than we
eat our pigs live out of Brass
other meat that they get from
passengers birds are very fat, w
thinks wish that we could drop
and get Ada with you would not
be a treat, yes your Ham and
and butter would not they be a glo
treat, I just believe they would we
so long for a taste of fresh meat
bread — we have not seen half so many
either fish or birds as we expected. I
seen we have had for the last mon
a good many Cape pigeons following
ship daily for what they can gather up
also some Albatrosses a very large
bird measuring better 9 feet acro

wings, also some large black birds

about the size of your geese which they
call Boobys, we have seen several no Lab
to day but only of a small species we
have had for a little amusement during
our Voyage several boat races amongst
the young men for a few bottles of wine
likewise a few shooting matches, at a
board along at the head of the Mizen
mast, I would have wrote more about
our passage but Mr. Potter has been
keeping a journal of every days proceed
since we left the Humber which he is
going to send to Mr. Mason of Stafford
so that if you apply to my Brothers at Walter
they will gladly lend it you to peruse
that you will get to know every partic
ar, both me and my wife feell anxious
for you to read as we have had 8 children
born in the ship and have had six dea

four of them being quite children.

Enoch Welbourn being one of the other
John & Benjamins man the other being
a woman the name of Brittain.
Sunday Oct 6th This morning we came
in sight of land nearly all the passen-
gers hastened on deck being very
anxious to get sight of land, the sight
was certainly most enchanting it
looks a very romantic country, the
grass appears green but partly covered
with Brush wood or trees, and we could
distinguish a few houses back in the la-
nd, the coast and the land what we can
see looks delightfully the wind changing
quite a head of us we was compelled
to put out again to sea and did not
come in sight of Land again until
Monday morning and sailed on

the coast until we arrived in sight

of Durban where the Captain cast the
anchor, and in about an hour a custom
house Officer came on board, he informed
us that Mr. Lund was well and looking
out for us having arrived on the 23rd
of May, I have no doubt but he will
have made preperation for our Landing
On the 8th we left the ship with our bedding
and set our feet once more on the Land
Mr. Lund had waggons provided to con
vey us up to Durban with 14 bullocks
to it and Mrs. Henry went to a house
newly built very small without either
shelf or cupboard for which we are to pay
3£ per month, the scenery is beautifull
but the houses are miserable, the roads
are very bad in the town being ankle deep
in sand you scarcely can see an acre
of land cultivated, beef is 2½d to 3d per lb

flour 3d per stone, Sug.

coffee 1/2 lb. Mr Lund & Mr R. Smith
have gone to engage the land which
I expect to be ready next week but the
cost will be so heavy getting up so
it that a many of us will not be able
to go to it at present. Mr. Lund has
taken the farm section 5 miles of Dardar
for a twelve month for nothing whilst
I have been to see he has been reaping
the crop of Barley, Oats, Beans and Pealys
which have only been sown four months
potatoes are 10d per bushell, he has also
had a very good crop, a finer sample
than you produce, Cabbages 6d each
and all kind of vegetables very high
we have any quantity of the land for
the same terms which he has it at
which is very kind, so that we intend
going immediately and setting to work

in good earnest with our men,

and hope in the course of a little time to be enabled to take up the other land the land that is to be for us to settle upon is about 20 miles from Marlborough and by what our officers say about it as well as other people it is the best place in the colony for a location I feel confident that when we get located and after a short time a year or two we shall be happy and comfortable I like the appearance of the land what I have seen I have no doubt will produce any thing we want the road between here and Marlborough is better than we expected some of our party have been there and like the appearance of the country about Marlborough very much the cattle appear very

healthy, if I had just

passage out and had my money
in my pocket, I should have been
tempted for you may purchase perhaps
200 acres of land and part of it culti-
vated, good land for 150 £ by paying
50 £ down, 50 in 5 years time and
the other in 10 any one coming out here
with 2 or 3 hundred pound may do
well, Mr Byrne is in great disgrace
here the last ship that came out 6
months ago five emigrants the
greater part of them have not been
put on there land yet and are
in a state of destitution and some
of them have even sold their 20 ~~acres~~
for a glass of grog the land that he had
bought for them being so very useless

an Load - and perhaps 50 miles off

Boston is full of store keepers
keepers, Bakers, Butchers, Coffee
ouses, and most of them are doing
reinely well Owing to the vast
umber of Emigrants that arrived
e last 6 month) very few of them
ave money to cultivate there land
o they commence a little shop
r coffee house on there arrival,
e thing that is wanted is people to cultiv
te the lands, and that must be done
efore the colony can rise here is a
eady market for all you can pro
uce, we are near a Butchers
op he kills Regular 2 beasts in
e day one in the morning and

the other in the evening they cut the

off warm and immediately commence
selling them the beef is not so fat as
Bourg they weigh about 60 stone each
vessels like them detained here
for 5 or 6 weeks before they could Enter
either the Passengers or goods we
were highly favoured we often
wish you could just have a peep
at us you would be astonished
to see our mansion and our grove
lings but never mind all was
done for the best and feel assured
that with perseverance and care we
shall after a while reap a reward,
the climate appears to be very

Healthy particularly up the country

the natives are a quite and honest
race of men being completely naked
except a small covering across their
loin being very plump and stronger
made than the English, the women
are very ordinary in comparrison
to the men, some of their breast
hanging down as low as the
navel. Now my much esteemed
Father, Brothers, & Sisters, you must
excuse me staying any more but
I'll write again before long and
then I shall be able to tell you
more of the country I am very

Lastly we have most lost our Love
you and shall be very anxious
to hear from you, the first opportunity
we have to write and believe me to
remain till death your much
Beloved Son, and Daughter
Wm & Hannah Board

P.S. We attended the Chappell on Sunday a very
neat place it was well attended and after
service went into the Coffers Chappell
joining what a strange sight it was
a missionary was preaching to them
in there own Language the women that
got converted have a print dress thrown
round them without any under cloths
and an old handkerchief tied round
there heads such Coderly looking creatures
you scarcely can imagine, I think they look
much better in there native attire we stood as
still they all came out most of them bowing
there heads and smiling as they passed

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William Boast's Account of the Voyage of the *Haidee*

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Transcribed from a copy of the handwritten original.

Gavin D Peckham, February 2026.

This is William Boast's account of the voyage of the *Haidee* from Hull to Port Natal in 1850. In March of 2021 Stuart Heslop sent me a copy of this handwritten document and well as his transcript of it. A copy of the original handwritten letter follows this transcript.

The text below is my transcript of the handwritten document, which differs somewhat from Stuart's. In this transcript, I have copied the spelling, punctuation and grammar of the original document as accurately as possible.

William Boast seems to use commas, both as commas **and** as full stops. Also, after using a comma in lieu of a full stop he seldom ever starts, what is apparently a new sentence, with a capital letter – thus many sentences seem to run into one another. Many words are started at the end of a line and then, without hyphenation, continue on the next line. He also often uses "fs" for "s", as in "mifs" for "miss" – which was a common usage at that time.[80] The photo-copying has trimmed a little off the edges of the document, adding to the difficulties in transcription. All this necessitates some degree of interpretation. In editing in this draft:

abc	=	words I could not decipher but am confident are correct
abc?	=	words I could not decipher but are logical guesses
?	=	words I could not decipher or even guess

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Ship Haidee coast of Africa
Saturday Oct 5th 1850

Dear Father Brothers & Sisters

Not having a doubt on our minds but you will be very anxious to here wether we have reached our destination in safety or not. I feel very thankful today that we are within a few miles of *port*? and expect to be landed in *two* or three days it will be ??? since we left Grimsby roads[81] on Sunday morning which has certainly been a longer passage than we

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calculated upon, yet upon the whole we have had a splendid passage never having what the Sailors call a *green sea*[82]. the whole of the way we have never been hatched down although we have very oft had the Ship pitching and rolling about so that we was not able to stand without having good hold of something or other. I think that neither me nor my wife[83] have ever been the least alarmed that as regards our safety the whole of the *headway*? after we had been on board about *a fortnight*. the wind blew very strong from the south east having been remarkably calm untill then, most of the passengers [?*missing text about seasickness*?]

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heads from the pillow all the day not been able to dress poor little Anne[84] or scarcely to get her any meal, as for ourselves, the very thought of such a thing was sufficient however over the course of two or three days we got over it, although a few have suffered more or less from it at

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[80] This symbol was called a "long s". It looked like an "f" but without the full crossbar. It was only used for an "s" within a word and never for an "s" at the end of a word.

[81] Roads, short for roadstead, was the name used for a sheltered body of water close to the shore where ships can safely drop anchor and wait. Grimsby roads is in the estuary of the Humber River not far from Hull.

[82] ChatGPT assures me that this is almost certainly the term that would have been used by sailors in the 1850s.

[83] Hannah Lofthouse was William Boast's (MG58-821) wife. They married two years before leaving England.

[84] Anne (KZQX-MFX) was the eldest child of William and Hannah Boast. Having been born in 1849.

the greatest part of the way. On the 16th of August my wife began to be very *ill* and full of pain the Doctor giving her something which relieved her *some*. At 4 O'clock on Saturday morning ? I had to fetch the doctor and about ? in the forenoon she was delivered *of* a fine *kindly* faced little lad[85], I ??

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??? and in the evening ??? after he had been sewed in canvass committed the body of *her* dear little babe to the *watery* deep, which felt very painful to our feelings, I got Mrs Welbourn[86] to amuse dear Hannah[3] which I had very grateful about, being in a weak and *precarion*[87] state having had a most severe time but feel truly thankful that she *mended* far better than either the Doctor or any one could have expected, being able to walk about a little in a fortnight, and at the present both myself and her are enjoying a good state of health, we put Anne[88] out to nurse with a woman the name of Cass[89] who keep her until we land, she looks

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remarkably well and fat, and ? very interesting we have plenty of *food* allowed in fact more than we *ever* eat our pigs live out of B? other ? that they get from the passengers and are very fat, we *some times* wish that we could drop *in* and get tea with you would not *that* be a treat, yes your Ham and ? and butter would not they be a *gladsome* treat, I just believe they would we *began* to long for a taste of fresh meat or bread - we have not seen half so many of either Fish or birds as we expected to have seen we have had for the last month a good many Cape Pigeons[90] following the ship daily for what they can gather up, also some Albatrosses a very large bird measuring better 9 feet across the / wings

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wings, also some large black birds about the size of your geese which they call Boobys, we have seen several whale today but only of a small species we have had for a little amusement during our voyage several boat races among the young men for a few bottles of wine, likewise a few shooting matches, at a board slung at the head of mizen mast, I would have wrote more about our passage but Mr Potter has been keeping a journal of every days proceeds since we left the Humber which he is going to send to Mrs Mason of Nafferton[91] so that if you apply to my Brothers at Alton[92] they will gladly lend it you to peruse so that you will get to know every particular for, both me and my wife feell anxious for you to read it, we have had 8 children born in the ship, and six deaths, / four

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four of them being quite children. Enoch Wellbourn[93] being one of the others, John & Benjamins *man?* the other being a woman the name of brittain[94]. Sunday Oct 6th this morning we came in sight of land nearly all the passengers hastened on deck being very anxious to get sight of land, the sight was certainly most enchanting it looks a very romantic country, the

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[85] William and Hannah Boast's baby son was still born and buried at sea.
[86] Mary Welburn, wife of Robert Welburn.
[87] ChatGPT assures me that "precarion" was the commonly used term in the 1850s and equivalent to "precarious".
[88] Anne (KZQX-MFX) was the eldest child of William and Hannah Boast. Having been born in 1849.
[89] Jane Cass (MPTR-M5R), nee Clarkson was the wife of Thomas Cass.
[90] This is the term commonly used in the 1850s for the **Cape Petrel** (*Daption capense*) which was well known for following ships for days and which was very common especially off the west coast of Southern Africa.
[91] This village in Yorkshire is east of York and north of Hull.
[92] A village in Hampshire, England.
[93] Enoch Welburn - probably the father or brother of Richard Welburn who, with his wife Mary, were also on board. According to Jane Plummer's diary, Enoch Welburn died onboard the *Haidee* on Tuesday, 6th August 1850.
[94] Carolina Brittain, wife of James Brittain (MG17-CFW). According to Jane Plummer's diary, Carolina died on 22 August, 1850, the day the *Haidee* crossed the equator, leaving James with a 15 month old son.

grass appears green but partly covered with Brush wood or *wins*[95], and we could distinguish a few houses back in the *inland*, the coast and the land what we can see looks delightful, the wind changing quite a head of us we was compelled to put out again to sea and did not come in sight of land until Monday morning and sailed on / up

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up coast until we arrived in ?, ? when the captain cast the anchor, and in about an hour a custom house officer came on board, he informed us that Mr Lund was well and looking out for us having arrived on the 27th of May. I have no doubt but he will have made preparation for our landing. Oct 8th. We left the ship with our bedding and set our feet once more on the land. Mr Lund had waggons provided to convey us up to Durban with 14 bullocks Mr and Mrs Henry went to a house newly built very small without either shelf or cupboard for which we are to pay 3 £ per month, the scenery is beautiful but the houses are miserable, the roads are very bad in the town being ankle deep in sand you scarcely can see an acre of land cultivated, beef is 2d[96] to 3d per lb[97], / flour

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flour 3d per stone[98], sugar ???, coffee 1d per lb. Mr Lund & Mr R. Smith have gone to engage the land which I expect to be ready next week but the cost will be so heavy getting up to it[99] that a many of us will not be able to go to it at present. Mr Lund has taken a farm within 5 miles of Durban for a twelve month for nothing which I have been to see he been reaping a crop of Barley, Oats, Beans and Mealys[100] which have only been sown four months potatoes are 10s [101] per bushell[102], he has also had a very good crop, a finer sample than you produce, cabbages 6d each and all kinds of vegetables very high we have any quantity of the load for the same terms which he has it at which is very kind, so that we intend going imediately and setting to work / in

Page 10

in good earnest with our men, and hope in the course of a little time to be enabled to take up the other land the land that is there for us to settle upon is about 20 miles from Maritzburgh[103] and by what our opinioneers[104] say about it as well as other people it is the best place in the colony for a location I feel confident that when we get located and after a short time say a year or two we shall be happy and comfortable I like the appearance of the land what I have seen I have no doubt *we can* produce anything we want, the road between here and Maritzburgh is better than we expected some of our party have been there and like the appearance of the country about Maritzburgh very much the cattle appear very / healthy

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[95] In the context of the UK in the 1850s, ChatGPT assures me that "whins" was the term then commonly used for the thorny shrub, gorse, which is widely common in the UK.

[96] The abbreviation 'd' for a British penny originates from the Latin word '*denarius'*, a Roman silver coin.

[97] The abbreviation 'lb' for pound originates from the Latin word '*libra'*, which referred to the ancient Roman unit of weight and means 'balance' or 'scales'. It stems from the phrase *libra pondo* ("a pound by weight"), where '*libra'* provided the abbreviation *lb*, while *pondo* evolved into the English word 'pound'.

[98] The stone is a weight equal to 14 pounds or about 6.35 kg. This archaic unit of weight is still commonly in use in the UK to this very day!

[99] I.e. the cost of transport from Durban, to their allocated land in York, KZN, was too expensive to afford.

[100] This is a South African term for maize or corn.

[101] The abbreviation 's' for a British shilling originates from the Latin word '*solidus'*, which was a Roman coin.

[102] 1 Bushel = 8 Gallons. 1 Gallon = 4 Quarts. 1 Quart = 2 pints. An archaic system still used throughout the USA.

[103] An old fashioned abbreviation for Pietermaritzburg. Currently the name is abbreviated as Maritzburg, PMBurg, or simply PMB.

[104] ChatGPT assures me that this word was not uncommon in the 1850s and often used in a slightly sarcastic way.

healthy, if I had just *not paid*? passage out and had my money in my pocket, I should have been alright, for you may purchase perhaps 200 acres of land and part of it cultivated, good land for 150 £ by paying 50 £ down, 50 in 5 years time and the other in 10 anyone coming out here with 2 or 3 hundred pound may do well, Mr Byrne is in great disgrace here the last ship that came out 6 months ago the emigrants the greater part of them have not been put on there land yet and are in a state of destitution and some of them have even sold their 20 acres for a Glass of grog the land that he had bought for them being so very useless / and

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and bad - and perhaps 50 miles off[105] Durban is full of store keepers, *inn* keepers, Bakers, Butchers, Coffee houses and most of them are doing extremely well Owing to the vast number of Emigrants have arrived the last 6 months very few of them have money to cultivate there land so they commence a little shop or coffee house on there arrival, the thing that is wanted is people to cultivate the land, and that must be done before the colony can rise here is a ready market for all you can produce, we are near a Butchers shop he kills regular 2 beasts in the day, one in the morning and / the

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the other in the evening they cut them up warm and immediately commence selling them the beef is not so fat as yours, they weigh about 60 stone each, vessels have been detained here for 5 or 6 weeks before they could land either the Passengers or goods, we are highly favoured we often wish you could just have a peep at us you would be astonished to see our mansion and our proceedings, but never mind, all was done for the best and feel assured that with perseverance and care we shall after a while reap a reward, the climate appears to be very

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healthy particularly up the country the natives are a quite and honest race of men being completely naked except a small covering across their loin, being very plump and stronger made than the English, the women are very ordinary compared to the men, some of their breasts hanging down in front at the least now my much esteemed father, Brothers & Sisters you must excuse me saying any more but will write again before long and then I shall be able to tell you more of the ? ? ?

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? *and*? we have not lost our love *for* you and shall be very anxious to hear from you, the first opportunity *you* have to write and believe us for certain till death your much *affecked*[106] Son and Daughter

Wm & Hannah Boast

PS We attended the Chappell on Sunday a very neat place it was well attended and after service went into the (K word) Chappell joining what a strange sight it was a missionary was preaching to them in there own language, the women that got converted have a print *dress*? round them without any under clothes and an old handkerchief tied round there heads such ? looking creatures you scarcely can imagine, I think they look much better in there native attire we stood untill they all came out most of them lowering there heads and smiling as they passed.

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[105] This is the land allocated to the Byrne settlers in the Byrne valley near Richmond.

[106] ChatGPT assures me that this was standard usage at the time and that the word is equivalent to the more modern word 'affected'. However, we would not even use the phrase, "Your affected son." nowadays!